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18/FEATURES

Humphrey Lyttelton, an improbable youth cult THE EYE

TODAY'S NEWS

Aids cases rise

A United Nations report published yesterday to mark World Aids Day estimates that the number of people infected with HIV or Aids has risen by half in the past year to 30m, with 2.3m expected to die this year. The increase is entirely among poor people, in poor countries; Aids is falling among rich nations, where treatment is improving. Page 7

lllegal trade in immigration

Organised crime syndicates are offering "package deals" to bring people into Britain with forged papers. The deals cost up to £10,000 per person, and Chinese triads and the Russian mafia are involved. Page 4

The end of coal?

Up to half of Britain's deep-mined coal pits could close, with the loss of about 5,000 jobs, as power stations switch to gas. Labour ministers struggled to defend the consequences in the Commons yesterday. Politics, page 15, and Business, Page 23

SEEN & HEARD

The Italian Parma Ham Consortium is threatening legal action against Asda because the supermarket slices the meat in Wiltshire. Although it uses Parma pigs, Asda is under pressure to rename its product 'Chippenham Ham'. "If we import Parma ham and cut it in our store delis, we can still call it Parma Ham," said Asda. "But if we want to cut and pre-package it, they are saying we have to do that in Parma."

TELEVISION The Eye, page 12 CROSSWORDS Page 32 and the Eye, page 9 WEATHER The Eye, page 10

Web address: http://www. independent.co.uk



It was a blistering attack, and it came from the pulpit. When it ended, a couple of breathtaking, passionate hours later, it seemed

that the remains of Winnie Mandela's credibility had been blown away. Mary Braid reports.

Apartheid, said Bishop Peter Storey, South Africa's leading Methodist priest, had been South Africa's "primary cancer". But, with Mrs Madikizela-Mandela sitting just feet away, he argued that "secondary infections" had set in, eroding some people's sense of good and evil.

Moral collapse was at the centre of the 1988 murder of Stompie Seipei Moeketsi, 14, the township activist Mrs Mandela was found guilty of kidnapping. "It's possible," he warned the Truth and Reconciliation Committee, "to become like those that we hate most.'

He did not name Mrs Mandela, who was convicted of the kidnapping in 1992, but not of the killing. Yesterday, however, everyone at the hearing knew who the bishop believed had fallen from grace. The murder of Stompie, he said, was about more than the killing of a child. "It is about the ruthless abuse of power, and it resembles much too closely the abuses of the apartheid system itself." He said that truth was too often "trimmed to political winds or suppressed because people have vanished or feared for their lives", but he hoped it would finally prevail.

Mrs Mandela, standing for deputy leadership of the ANC next month, against the wishes of the leadership, sat stonyfaced. But the bishop's searing indictment drifted from the hall towards the Johannesburg headquarters of the ANC, a few miles away. For he also condemned the ANC for trying to cover up Mrs Mandela's guilt. An ANC Crisis Committee, he said, had been primarily interested in damage limitation.

Some activists had been brave enough to distance themselves from Mrs Mandela. "If only other members of the movement had had the courage that they had we would not be sitting here today," said Bishop Storey. The TRC, which must expose the you have accused me off," he said. "I foratrocities of the apartheid era, has heard give you even if you do not want that Stompie - and three older youths - not think I deserve to give it." were abducted from the Soweto manse of the Rev Paul Verryn (now a Methodist bishop), where they had saught sanctuary from the security police. They were taken by the notorious Mandela United Football Club, Mrs Mandela's personal bodyguard which terrorised Soweto.

Mrs Mandela claimed Mr Verryn was sexually abusing the boys and that Stompie was a police informer. This week, the boys said Mrs Mandela threatened they would die if they did not make false allegations against the minister. After their abduction they were beaten for three days. When they were finally released two weeks later, Stompie was missing. He was later found on wasteland with his throat slit.

Yesterday Bishop Storey described how the church and the community tried to persuade Mrs Mandela to let the boys go. Every effort was "stonewalled".

For the first time Bishop Storey released contemporaneous notes of a message he sent to Mandela. Stanley Mogoba, then the head of the Methodist Church, reported back the future president's response. Even the short notes made by Bishop Storey after he was debriefed by Mr Mogoba betray the sadness of the encounter. After Mr Mogoba explained Mrs Mandela's rejection of mediation, Mr Mandela conceded that the "fault is hers" and apologised for

an "ugly situation." In what, with hindsight, was a turning point in his relationship with the woman who had kept the struggle and his hopes alive, Mandela asked Mr Mogoba whether he should advise his wife to call a press conference, make a public apology and seek forgiveness. The Bishop replied that might already be too late. Eight years on Mrs Mandela has yet to apologize or request forgiveness. She still denies taking part in his assault or murder.

Yesterday Stompie's mother Joyce listened as the Rev Paul Verryn (now a bishop), the Sowetan priest Mrs Mandela almost ruined with false allegations, offered her another chance. Just seconds before he had broken down during a public apology to Mrs Seipei, who says all she wants is for Winnie to tell her what happened to her son. Bishop Verryn said he felt he had not taken threats against Stompie seriously enough. "Had I acted in another way he could be safe and with us now," he said through tears.

- - He then turned and gazed at an uncomfortable-looking Mrs Mandela. "I have been profoundly burt by the things

Mrs Mandela had surely had enough priests. But then Archbishop Desmond Tutu, TRC chairman, asked her if she wanted to make any public response to Mr Verryn in the spirit of reconciliation. She declined, saying through her lawyer that she preferred to "communicate" in private.

Labour's warm embrace for the old private school enemy

A new partnership between Labour and private schools was proclaimed by the Government yesterday. Judith judd and Lucy Ward compare rhetoric and reality behind yesterday's announcement of co-operation between state and public schools.

Fourteen years after Labour's election manifesto pledged to abolish private schools, the Government has told them that their future is safe. The more recent threat that they might lose their charitable status unless they could justify it is also receding.

Instead, there is to be a new government advisory group which will devise ways in which state and private schools can co-operate, and £250,000 for partnership-pilot projects.

A further £250,000 will be provided by Peter Lampl, a millionaire businessman who earlier this year funded a summer school for stateschool pupils to encourage them to apply to Oxford University. Mr Lampl told The Independent last night that he wanted to encourage able children from non-privileged backgrounds to benefit from the excellent facilities available at many independent schools. Britain was allowing a lot of talent to "go to waste because many bright young people are not being given the opportunities to realise their

full potential", he said. The money will be used to help state school pupils study in private schools, for example in minority subjects such as Larin, for Oxbridge entrance or even short periods of boarding. Summer schools to help



Fettes College: the Prime Minister's old school

HOW THE PARTY LINE HAS CHANGED

THEN: Labour Manifesto, 1983: "Private schools are a major obstacle to a free and fair education system, able to serve the needs of the whole community. We will ... Integrate private schools within the local authority sector where necessary."

NOW: Schools standards ministe Scephen Byers yesterday: "The time has come for old prejudices to be Government is looking forward to working in partnership with you to raise standards."

slow readers are another possibility. Compared with the assistedplaces scheme, which used taxpayers' money to fund places for pupils from poor backgrounds in independent schooks and which was abolished by the Government this summer, the money involved is tiny.

But Mr Byers, the first Labour minister to address an independent was symbolic of a completely new ap-

buried. I want you to know that the proach. He told the Girls' Schools Association of leading private-school heads in Bristol: "The time has

ing in partnership with you to raise standards." He even acknowledged that Labour's threat to abolish indepenschools conference, insisted that it dent schools might have been one of

come for old prejudices to be buried.

I want you to know that the Gov-

ernment is looking forward to work-

badly in 1983. He said: "The Government has made it clear that we wish to build bridges wherever we can across education divides. The education apartheid created by the public/private divide diminishes the whole education system."

On the subject of charitable status, which saves independent schools millions of pounds each year, he said: "Let me make it clear. It is not part of our agenda to encourage the Independent Charity Commission to withdraw charitable status."

Ministers would not compel private schools to make any changes, Mr Byers said, and their standards would not be compromised.

Mr Byers denied that the new projects were a reinvention of the assisted-places scheme. The crucial difference, he argued, was that pupils would remain on the roll of their state school. State schools would have to agree that their pupils should study for part of the time at an independent school.

· The heads applauded him warmly. Jackie Lang, the association's new president, said: "It is a historic day. Mr Byers has done more then bury the hatchet. A great axe has been buried."

But she said that there were still obstacles to overcome: some Labour local authorities and state school heads are expected to resist attempts to cream off their brightest pupils for even part of the time.



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X COLUMN ONE

Ford's family favourite

Old cars do not die, they just change their names. The latest badge to fall

yesterday that production will cease in 2000. To add injury to insult, the

company will waste little time easing the Escort out - and will be promoting

its new model, the CW170, next year. Of course, we have been here before. The Mondeo replaced the Sierra, and the Escort itself replaced the

tail-finned Anglia. Few thought the car would so effortlessly rise above

The Mark I Escort (below) rolled off the production line as a sedate

saloon which crawled from 0-60 in a hair-lowering 22.3 seconds, and even-

tually attained a top speed of 75 mph. Since then, the Escort has under-

gone five reincarnations. The latest 1.8 injection two-door cabriolet reaches

Rarely has a car been so successful. More than 18 million have been

made since the original launch and 4.5 million have been sold in Britain,

where it has become synonymous with boy racers and "first-car" families.

Diana, Princess of Wales, was the proud owner of a 1.6 litre model and

the former Chancellor, Ken Clarke, raced around in a red XR3i.

Thanks to its sporty overtones, it was guaranteed star appeal. The late

For Ford, which once revelled in the Cool Britannia image generated

by the unique Britishness of its car fleet, Europe's shores are much more

alluring. Instead of being built at Halewood on Merseyside, the Escort's

replacement will be manufactured in Cologne and given its world debut

And what's in a name? Quite a lot. Ford are paying an advertising agen-

Etched on the tombstones that litter the great motor-makers' grave-

yard, are the improbable sounding Vauxhall Velux, Riley Elf and Sunbeam

Stiletto. But it is not just yesterday's motorists that have suffered sniggers

and wry smiles from fellow drivers. After all who admits they once owned

- Randeep Ramesh, Transport Correspondent

WAS OBSESSED

WITH OUTER SPACE

BOOK OF ASTRONOMY

AND A CHEAP

HAD MY LADYBIRD

TELESCOPE AND

I'D IMAGINE

SILVER-

MY WAY

THROUGH

cy £500,000 to come up with a new one. Manufacturers know that if you

choose the wrong moniker, the punters will vote with their wallets.

a Nissan Charade or the unfortunately pronounced VW Sharan?

its humble beginnings as a family saloon when launched in 1968.

60mph in 10 seconds and has a top speed of 120 mph.

Considered to be the marque's most popular name ever, Ford confirmed

from favour is one of suburban Britain's most loved: the Ford Escort.

7.30 FOR 8

SOMETIMES , YOU KNOW, I THINK BACK

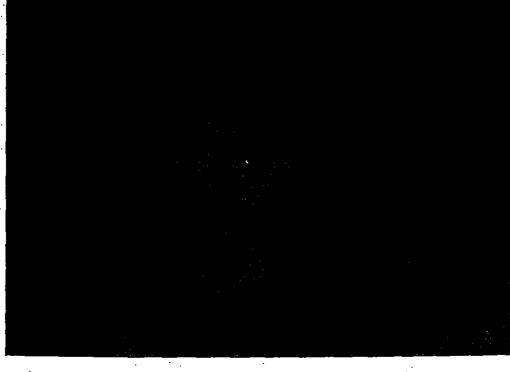
TO WHEN I WAS A





by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman

PEOPLE



Funeral anguish for Luxor massacre family

the Luxor massacre, has been mixed up with that of a Swiss tourist and flown to Switzerland

by mistake. The error brought further-distress to members of her family, who are also mourning the loss of Mrs Turner's daughter Karina, 24, and five-year-old granddaughter Shaunnah, who were also murdered.

Halifax deputy assistant coroner James Turnbull admitted yesterday that a body which had been lying in a funeral parlour in the town since the weekend was not the 53-year-old Briton but was probably that of a unknown Swiss tourist. He added: "It is probable an unidentified body in Zurich is Joan Turner. In view of that, the

SILVER-SURFING?

DON'T KNOW HOW IT HAPPENED,

WHAT ('M

MYSELF

WHAT

SAYING IS I

NEVER SAW

BUT SOMEHOW TO ALL GOT LOST OF

The body of Joan Turner (above), al order until matters are sorted were: George Wigham, 69, and his the British grandmother killed in out." He said dental records had wife Ivy, 71, from Swanley, Kent, been swapped with officials in Zurich.

> Mrs Turner's family were preparing to bury her in her home village of Ripponden, near Halifax, West Yorkshire, today with her daughter and granddaughter.

A family member, who has not been named, had originally identified Mrs Turner's body at the coroner's area of Heathrow airport last Saturday. A post-mortem examination was carried out and it was moved to a funeral parlour in biggest tour operator, announced Halifax while the family made fu-

A total of 68 people - mostly tourists - were killed when militant Islamic gunmen opened fire ter the "vast majority" of its cuson tourists visiting ancient mon-tomers booked to Egypt had uments in the southern Egyptian coroner has withdrawn the buri- town. The other British victims

by Chris Priestley

YOU'RE BEING TOO

SWEETHEART ...

HARD ON YOURSELF

THANKS MAEVE.

NØ~ON€

ACTUALLY

SETS OUT

and 26-year-old Monarch Airines stewardess Sylvia Wilder, who lived in London.

A militant organisation calling itself the al-Gamaa al-Islamiya (The Islamic Group) admitted responsibility for the attack, claiming it was a failed attempt to take hostages to trade for the freedom of its spiritual leader, an Egyptian cleric jailed in the US for plotting to bomb New York landmarks.

Meanwhile Thomson, the UK's yesterday that it has cancelled the rest of its winter tours to Egypt following the massacre. The company said it had made the decision afopted to transfer or cancel.

Woodward case lawyer claims defence rift

An American lawyer who met recently in England with Susan Woodward, the mother of Louise Woodward, has claimed in a sworn affidavit that a gaping breach has opened up between the British namy and her defence lawyers in Boston.

While the allegations raise questions about the lawyers' relationship with EF Au Pair, the namy agency that placed Woodward in America, their credility of the claims came under swift attack.

In the papers, submitted to the court that tried Woodward but sent straight back by return post. Daniel Shea, a small-time lawyer from Houston. Texas, reports that Mrs Woodward complained that she was fighting efforts by the lawyers to appeal the manslaughter conviction imposed on her daughter.

Initially found guilty of second degree murder in the death of baby Matthew Eappen, Woodward was later given a reduced manslaughter conviction by Judge Hiller Zobel, and released on time served.

Mr Shea asserts that EF Au Pair wanted Woodward to proceed with an appeal. He says that if Woodward's name is cleared it will reduce the risk of a civil liability case that the Eappens may file against the agency. That could imply a conflict of interest for the defence.

There is, however, little to back up Mr Shea's claims. Andrew Miller, the Woodwards' constituency MP, who attended the 16 November meeting between Mrs Woodward and Mr Shea, said Mr Shea had misrepresented Mrs Woodward in his affidavit. "There is absolutely no question that the family is determined to clear Louise's name," Mr Miller said.

- David Usborne, New York

UPDATE

HEALTH

Discovery may help tackle obesity

A signalling mechanism discovered in the brain which governs appetite and metabolism could lead to new treatments for obesity.

It has long been known that the hormone leptin acts in the central nervous system to reduce food intake and body weight, but experiments with rats have now shown that it operates through a particular molecular key, or receptor, in the brain. Receptors are distinct sites on the surface of cells which have the right molecular shape for specific chemicals to bind on to and exert their effects. The principle is similar to a key fitting a lock. In the case of leptin, the hormone binds to the melanocortin-4 (MC4) re-

ceptor, causing a "reduce weight" signal to be released.

Research carried out at the University of Washington, in the United States. found that rats which had their MC4 receptors chemically blocked were unaffected when treated with leptin. Those in which the receptors bere left unaltered consumed less food and lost weight when given the same amount of the hormone. Dr Randy Seeley, who led the research, said. "Hentifying a role for the MC4 receptor in mediating this effects of leptin is the brain may be an important step in advancing our understanding of how the brain controls food intake and body weight, and, subsequently, will help us treat health problems such as obesity."

CRIME

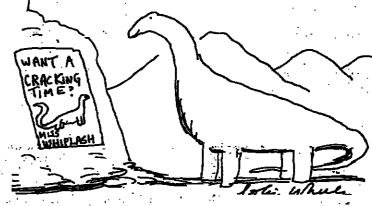
Victim charity in plea for more help

The Government should pay for a support service to help witnesses in all criminal courts, according to the Victim Support charity in its annual re-

At present, the Witness Service, run by Victim Support and funded by the Government, provides information and support for victims, witnesses and their families only in crown court cases. Last year, 97,600 took advantage of the help, a rise of 25 per cent on the previous year. However, the charity points out that more than 90 per cent of cases are only heard in magistrates courts where there is little support for witnesses. The charity says in some areas it has set up ad boc groups in magistrates courts, using money from private donors, the National Lottery and charitable trusts, but believes the Government should fund a nationwide service.

Helen Reeves, director of Victim Support, who will press the case with the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, at the charity's annual general meeting today, described the service in magistrates courts as the "missing piece of the jigsaw". She said: "There are over 500 magistrates courts in England and Wales and many of them are stuck in the past with no support for victims and witnesses." -- Michael Streeter, Legal Affairs Correspondent

How dinosaurs cracked the whip



The real Jurassic Park may have been alive with the sound of whips. A new theory suggests that dinosaurs such as the brontosaurus may have cracked their tails like huge whips to woo lovers and intimidate rivals.

Nathan Myhrvold, head researcher at software giant Microsoft, who studied physics at Cambridge University, has developed computer simulations of the tail movement of sauropods - herbivorous dinosaurs - to back the theory. The giant creatures, which included brontosaurus and diplodocus, had long necks and tails and stood on four legs. Myhrvold examined the tails of eight fossil sauropods and noticed that the tail vertebrae were longest about a quarter of the way down from the base - a known site of stress in a whip. In half the specimens, the vertebrae were fused at this point, possibly indicating stress injury.

Myhrvold believed these fossils were males who cracked their whip in sexual and aggressive displays. "Males whipped their tails to get a date," he told New Scientist magazine.

Some experts remain sceptical, however, pointing out that the violent motion would damage soft tissues. Peter Dodson, from the University of Pennsylvania, said: "Whipping delicate blood vessels around at the speed of sound doesn't sound like a wholesome thing to do."

- Charles Arthur, Science Editor,

Orange

ENVIRONMENT

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Lingering legacy of acid rain

Despite big cuts in air pollution which causes acid rain, the damaged rivers and lakes of Wales have shown next to no recovery from acidification, a scientific study has found.

The Welsh Acid Waters Survey 1995 found no improvement in fish and other freshwater life since a previous investigation back in 1984. Yet during this period UK emissions of sulphur dioxide, the most important acid & rain pollutant, fell by 35 per cent - mainly due to a fall in coal burning by power stations. Welsh river and lake water became slightly less acid, and lower in sulphur, but the invertebrates, fish and the dipper - a small bird. which scurries along stream bottoms in search of invertebrate prey - showed no recovery at all. It is estimated that about 8,000 miles of rivers and streams are affected. - Nicholas Schoon. Environment Correspondent

Architecture

Leader, letters

29-32

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GRRRACEFULLY TAKEN
Non tought.
Just roll it round your rongile.
GRAHAM'S
THE PORT OF AUTHORITY

Pacific rift TV & Radio The Eye, II-I2 **TOURIST RATES** Australia (dollars) Italy (lira) 2,800 Austria (schillings) 19.98 Japan (yen) 210.45. Belgium (francs) 58.67 Malta (lira) 0.62 Canada (\$) 2.31 Netherlands (guilders) 3.20 Cyprus (pounds) 0.83 Norway (knoner) 11.65 Denmark (kroner) 10,89 Portugal (escudos) 288.66 France (francs) 9.50 Spain (pesetas) 239,52 Germany (marks) 2.84 Sweden (kroner) 12.50 Greece (drachmei) 453.88 Switzerland (francs 2.30 Hong Kong (\$) 12.54 Turkey (lira) 312,034 reland (punts) USA (\$) i.09 1.63

14,15

IN TOMORROW'S INDEPENDENT

Film and pop in your 32page Eye on **Friday**

P tackle obesity



Jeanne Moreau: 'I'm past the age when the aim is to seduce THE EYE



De Niro: happy in Stallone's shadow THE EYE



The alien's return: chill, chill, chill THE EYE



'I said, "How many?"': Bobbi McCaughey in bed at lowa Methodist Hospital Center, Des Moines, Iowa, before the birth of her septuplets

Miracle septuplets take a public bow



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5 7 F $\eta_{\rm tot} \wedge M_{\rm p}^{\rm tot}$

R.C.W.

Alexis May McCaughey, one of the septupelts, at Blank Children's Hospital, Des Moines

marks go ever so higher and wider and just ica's Dateline NBC yesterday.

She and her husband, Kenny, were shocked to discover she was carrying seva very big family."

They have spoken of the faith that got them through the pregnancy, but Mrs

Normally petite Bobbi McCaughey's stom- McCaughey said there were moments of ach measured 55in when she gave birth to doubt. "First, it was just like 'God, why have septuplets - twice the norm for a full-term you done this to us?" Like it was something pregnancy and nearly as big around as she that was wrong." The morning of the deis tall. "It was scary ... watching the stretch livery, when she felt "like death warmed over," faith did not come easily. But she thinking, how much longer can this body had told Paula Mahone, who delivered the keep going?" Mrs McCaughey told Amer- septuplets, that aborting some foetuses to reduce the risk was out of the question.

The four boys and three girls, the only living septuplets in the world, continued to en foetuses. "I said 'How many?" "Mr Mc- show improvement yesterday. Natalie Sue, Caughey said. "She goes 'Seven' and I go the second-smallest, was removed from her 'Arrrephhh!' Then I go 'No, no, no, no. Are ventilator and upgraded to fair condition. you serious?' "The Iowa couple experi- Kenneth Robert, the oldest and heaviest, enced "sheer terror" but "it didn't take very has been breathing without a ventilator long ... for the shock to wear off and get since Friday, two days after the children used to the idea that we're going to have were born by Caesarean section. Their siblings remained in a serious condition, which doctors say is normal.

- Jojo Moyes AP/Dateline NBC



Kelsey Ann McCaughey, one of the seven Photographs.

Spencer pleads poverty in divorce proceedings

Earl Spencer pleaded poverty in his divorce proceedings in South Africa, arguing that most of his family's £100m fortune was tied up in the Northamptonshire estate at Althorp, where his sister. Diana, is buried. Steve Boggan says that few observers believe he is broke especially the newspapers which he was last night trying to gag.

He is reported to have personal wealth of £6m, an income of £1m a year and a family fortune of £100m but yesterday Earl Spencer was portrayed as a man who was a little strapped for cash.

Lawyers representing him at his divorce bearing in Cape Town said all his assets were tied up, either at Althorp or in London and Guernsey-based family trusts. He could not, they argued, afford to pay the £3.75m being demanded by his estranged wife, Victoria Lockwood

On the third day of the hearing, which will decide whether the full divorce case will be heard in South Africa or England, the High Court was that details were freely available told that the earl, 33, was left in South Africa, where he now lives, with "only" two houses, their contents, two trucks and a Mercedes.

And, just in case that was likely to produce a few sniggers, his lawyers were busy trying to prevent the media in South Africa from reporting the details. They applied last night for an injunction against the Cape Times in an attempt to stop it and its sister paper, the Argus, from publishing details of the



Victoria Spencer: has demanded 43.75m

case, even though it is being held in open court.

They argued that his eldest of four children, Lady Kitty, had been upset by gossip at her school and by roadside Cape Times posters referring to "Spencer's Other Women". The paper was fighting the application last night on the grounds on satellite television and in foreign newspapers.

In court, pleas for poverty on Earl Spencer's behalf were ridiculed by Jeremy Posnansky QC, who is appearing on behalf of Lady Spencer as an English family law expert. He introduced the details of Earl Spencer's wealth on Monday figures which have not been contested by his side.

Lady Spencer and his four chil-

dren and has suggested she could not be trusted with the £3.75m she has demanded. Rejecting that figure, his lawyers referred to the five months she spent undergoing treatment for alcoholism and eating disorders. In her turn, she alleges that he had affairs with 12 women dur-

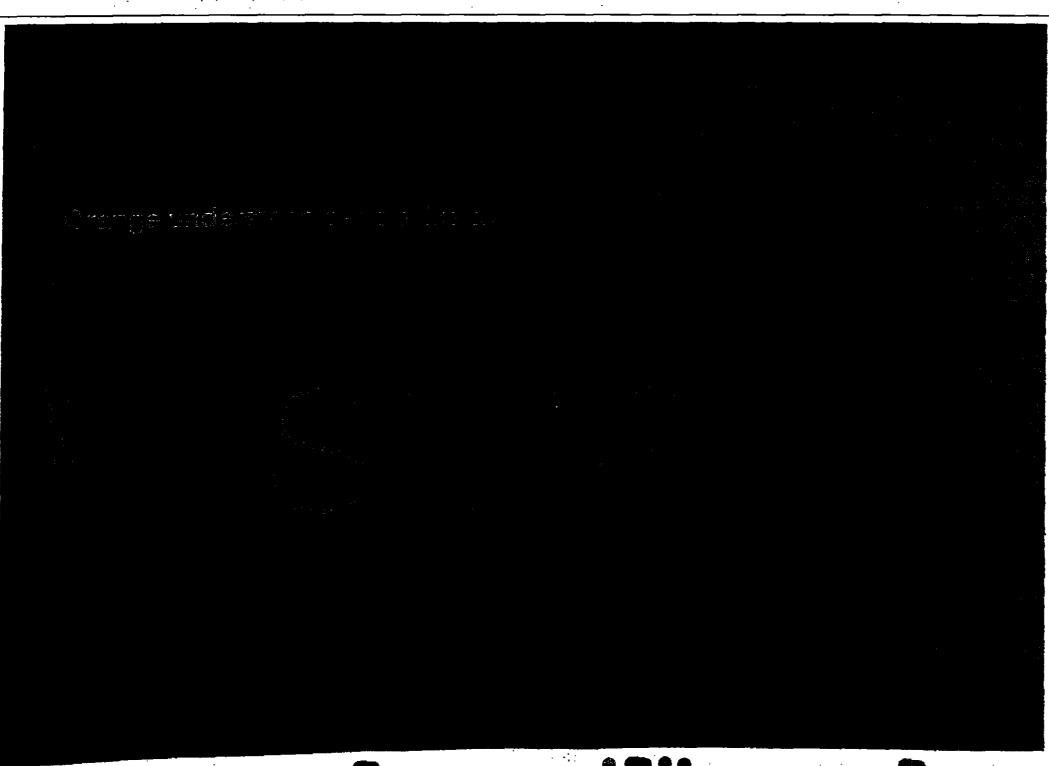
ing that time. Commenting on Earl Spencer's assets, Mr Posnansky said: "It is surprisingly common that when a divorce court approaches, a husband's businesses go down."

During attempts to reject the figure of 12 extra-marital affairs, Leslie Weinkove, for Earl Spencer, pointed out that Lady Spencer's side had named "only" three - Sally Ann Lasson, Chantal Collopy and Josie Borain. "He is asked as to whether he had adulterous affairs with them. If there are 10 or 12 people involved, would it be usual to pick only three of them?" asked Mr Weinkove.

The hearing will decide whether the couple's full divorce will be heard in South Africa, Earl Spencer's choice, or in England, where most of his assets are and where Lady Spencer would most likely land a larger settlement.

The question of whether the outcome could be fully reported was being argued at the High Court. Kanthan Pillay, the Cape Times' managing editor, said the paper planned to appeal if Earl Spencer's gagging order was granted. "We will be arguing that a substantial number of our readers already have access to details about the hearing on CNN, Sky, the BBC and the Internet," he said.

"Also, this hearing is in open court, so all we are doing is acting as the eyes and ears of the public. The earl has offered a set- It would be hidicrous to stop our tlement of only £300,000 for readers from seeing information that is already freely available."



talksharepius" iets two or more people share one Talk Plan and one bill. You get separate phones with different numbers, share more inclusive minutes, get cheaper calls and pay just one connection fee. You also receive Orange Care worth over £50 on each phone, which includes 12 months free insurance, 24 hour replacement and 3 year warranty. For more information call Orange direct on 0800 80 10 80 or visit www.orange.co.uk

Gangs move

paying thousands of pounds to

be hidden on vehicles, includ-

ing being attached the the un-

dercarriage of a bus, and

brought over on the Channel

Tunnel or ferries. The racke-

teers are prepared to invest con-

siderable sums in modifying

coaches and lorries so that they

can hide illegal immigrants. In

May a Spanish man was jailed

for two and a balf years after he

was caught trying to smuggle

nine Chinese people in a vehicie through the Channel Timnel.

over, using forged and coun-

terfeit documents. Some end up

in prostitution, including a case

in which more than 100 Brazil-

ian women were smuggled into

London in the 1990s to work as

have employed women illegal-

ly brought in from Thailand and

Malaysia to work as prostitutes

in brothels where they are held

as prisoners. Others work for

"gangmasters", picking crops for

clude groups from Britain, Rus-

Colombia. The extent of the

problem was disclosed yester-

day by Mike O'Brien, the im-

migration minister, who said:

"Vast profits are being made. It

bring people into Britain and

dence that criminal organisa-

tions that have previously seen

opportunities in drugs and pros-

titution now see new opportu-

nities in illegal immigration."

immigrant smuggling". The Or-

ganised Immigration Crime

Section will have a staff of five

or six dedicated officers drawn

from the National Criminal In-

A new unit was being set up

"There is increasing evi-

The criminals involved in-

Chinese triads in London

high-class call-girls.

meagre wages

Indian sub-continent. They are sia, China, Nigeria and

caught illegally entering Britain is becoming a big business to

Britain via a complicated route to go after the "godfathers of

such as passports and ID cards. telligence Service and the Im-

In other cases people are migration Service.

in the past year, although only other European countries.

Immigrants are also flown

into people

smuggling

Thousands of illegal

immigrants are being

smuggled into Britain by

organised-crime groups

and Chinese triads. Jason

Correspondent, outlines

a new crackdown on the

Illegal immigrants are paying up

to £10.000 each for special

"package deals" that include

forged documents and the ser-

vices of a lawyer to help them

stay in this country. The smug-

gling networks run by interna-

tional "godfather" figures are

being targeted by MI6, MI5 and

a new unit of police and immi-

gration officers, which was an-

dence that international or-

ganised criminals are becoming

increasingly involved in the

smuggling of people, frequent-

ly from Turkey, China, and the

being brought in to work in the

sex industry as prostitutes, as

cheap agricultural labour, and

has risen from 60 in 1991 to 700

a small fraction of the immi-

grants are caught. They pay

from £3,000 to £10,000 to be

brought in. A current smuggling

ring being investigated involves

immigrants, probably from Chi-

na or India, being smuggled into

across several countries. On

arrival the people are given le-

gal advice and help in applying

for asylum, along with forged

and counterfeit documents,

The number of people

in search of a better life.

The initiative follows evi-

nounced yesterday.

multi-million pound

like the Russian mafia

Bennetto, Crime

business.

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Tharman

BBC rapped over

The BBC has been slapped on the wrist for upsetting both the Irish and the cabinet

In its monthly report, the Broadcasting

Also in the Broadcasting Standards

Commission report was criticism of the

BBC's Watchdog programme for investi-

gating a £40,000 trip by MPs to South

America. The BSC upheld a complaint

from Frank Field, now minister in the De-

partment for Social Security, about a

Watchdog programme that secretly filmed

members of the social security select

A major investigation began yesterday at

a children's hospital after young patients'

meals were contaminated with glass, met-

Children's Hospital, Manchester, after

parents spotted the objects. They are now

investigating the possibility of sabotage af-

Detective Chief Inspector Mike Stanfield

said: "We are trying to find out if anyone

would have a motive for doing such a thing.

It is not clear if the contamination is as a result of an accident or broken machinery

Thousands of workers across Britain risk

contracting asthma from spray paints, it was

revealed yesterday. The Health and Safe-

ty Executive is targeting a type of paint.

known as "two-pack", which contains

chemicals called isocyanates. It has now is-

sued an information sheet to encourage

paint shop workers to be more aware of

the risks and take greater steps to avoid suf-

Dr Nerys Williams, of the HSE, said:

"Vapours, spray mists, dusts and deposits

containing isocyanates are highly irritant

and can result in sore eyes, runny noses, sore

throats ... Ultimately, they can also cause

asthma." It has been estimated that 500 cas-

es of asthma due to isocyanates have oc-

curred within a recent three-year period.

fering permanent ill health.

ter eight instances in just six weeks.

or if it is something more malicious."

'causes asthma'

Spray paint

Detectives were called to Booth Hall

Hospital meals

contained glass

al, chewing gum and cardboard.

Standards Watchdog yesterday upheld complaints from 150 viewers, including the Irish Tourist Board, about episodes of East-Enders which portrayed Ireland as popu-

Irish portrayal

minister Frank Field.

lated by drunks and idiots.

Public Notice

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XA2 F07



Students protesting against Government plans to introduce tuition fees on the march near Euston, central London. The demonstration was organised by the Campaign for Free Education Photograph: Charlotte Bromley Davenport

he had been discharged. Glenda Cooper, Social Affairs Correspondent, reports on a damning report yesterday that

standards. Michael Horner, 52, was discharged from an acute psychiatric ward at Queen's Park Hospital, Blackburn, in March 1996. The following day he telephoned the hospital to say

he had killed his wife. By the time police got

found his care fell below acceptable

to the house he had hanged himself and his wife Hazel had been strangled. The independent inquiry published yesterday found that his care had fallen below acceptable standards, his illness was not taken seriously and he was not correctly diagnosed. Mr Horner, who was suffering from a paranoid personality disorder and depression, was left without a primary nurse

reefone 0800 400 004

being informed by hospital staff. She was planning to leave her husband and was packing when he returned to their home in Lower Darwin, Lancashire.

We consider that the discharge of Mr Horner to home while his wife was still there packing with a view to move out within three days was most unfortunate and probably contributed to her death," the report states.

It also said that a full-risk assessment of Mr Homer should have been made before his discharge because he had attempted and

threatened suicide while an in-patient. There was also concern about a lack of communication between staff and the report highlighted a general "laissez-faire" attitude, which led to poor standards in patient care. It also showed a lack of close personal involvement with consultant psychiatrist Dr David Franks and stated that as a patient Mr Horner had been inadequately observed.

The day after his release, when Mr Horner rang the hospital ward to say he had killed his wife, the report also shows there was some delay before staff rang police. When officers finally arrived at the house they

Lisa Rawlinson, 31, one of the Horners' two daughters said yesterday that if her mother had realised her husband was coming home she would have moved out.

"My mum has died unnecessarily," she said. "Her death could have been prevent-

ed by one telephone call to tell her he was coming out. "To have lost one parent is horrifying

enough but to lose two is devastating." Marjorie Wallace, the chief executive of the mental health charity Sane, said: "It is

chilling to read the inquiry's own conclusions that Michael Horner's suicide was 'predictable and regarded as almost inevitable'. "Nevertheless he was discharged home

Discharged mental patient killed wife A woman killed by her mentally ill for the last 12 days of his month-long stay, and his discharge was seen as a "misjudgehusband had not even been warned ment" the report into Blackburn Hyndburn and Ribble Valley health care trust said. Mr Homer was sent home without his wife

found the two bodies.

by staff who knew his wife was planning to leave him. No one consulted his wife or family in this critical decision - as so often

Santa calls. ne Save £30 us price £79.99 connection fee** e accessories

Harman's after school care dream holed by lack of staff

Training for the new after-school clubs will have to begin "immediately" if the scheme is to succeed, the Kids' Club Network warned yesterday. As the Government outlined details of how a million children can be cared for, Glenda Cooper, Social Affairs Correspondent, looks at how the clubs will work.

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Accessibility, affordability and quality were the three key words for after-school clubs, the Secretary of State for Social Security, Harriet Harman, told lone parents yesterday. Revealing that three quarters of the money for the clubs would come from the National Lottery, she reiterated the Chancellor's pledge that there would be a club in each community.

But the Kids' Club Network (KCN).

which oversees the present 3,000 clubs, said that training would have to begin "this Monday" if enough staff were to be trained in time. The pressure group Gingerbread also called for lone parents to also be allowed to access the wage and training subsidy for childcare trainees at present open only to 18-24-year-olds.

Around £100m from the welfare-to-work programme will be used to train 50,000 young people as nursery and play staff, leading to qualifications. Ms Harman told the National Council for One Parent Families annual conference.

Assistants at an after-school club should have an NVQ level 2 in playwork and coordinators a level 3. said Anne Longfield. director of the KCN. But at present less than 50 colleges are offering the qualification



the price of the course (between £600 and £800) may put people off. "We would want the Government to give some help with the cost," said Ms Longfield. "And there must be a push to get more colleges on board to offer this qualification. Training will have which takes between six months and a year to begin next Monday if there is to be to complete. The KCN are also worried that enough staff available around the country."

Gingerbread, called for lone parents on the new deal to get the same wage and training subsidy as young people if they became childcare trainees. "Many lone parents would welcome the opportunity to train if they were able to receive a benefit/wage subsidy and a budget towards training and kids'

Liz Sewell, of the lone parent group clubs would benefit from their existing child rearing experience," she said.

Ms Harman said that there would be no "national blueprint" for the clubs but that they would build on the existing models.

There is no one absolute for how an afto the community they exist in - whether

a factory area in Manchester which copes with mothers working shift patterns, a deprived area of south London where parents are only charged £1 a session, or an affluent

middle class area where more is charged. After-school clubs are generally based and church halls. They generally open be- from the windfall tax.

Play time: David Blunkett and Tony Banks lend a helping hand with pre-school children at the Bromley by Bow Centre yesterday. The facility was chosen by Harriet Harman to launch plans to expand childcare provision to help single parents back return to work

Photograph: David Rose

tween 3.30 and 6.30pm although it varies from community to community. They are often set up by parents with input from the local school and sometimes with help from business as well.

Most are charities, although some are run as small businesses. For funding they rely on parental fees (typically around £15 per week), fundraising activities and grants from the local authority. Many clubs offer a holiday scheme as well (when fees are around £40 a week) and some offer breakfast time, recognising that many people

need to be in the office before school starts. Children have supervised activities which can range from games such as football to creative arts and crafts. The aim is to allow children to play in safety.

Such clubs are governed by the 1989 Children's Act, which states that when children under eight are being looked after for more than two hours a day the staff must be registered with local social services and subject to police checks. For every eight children there must be one member of staff.

It was also revealed yesterday the money for the clubs will come primarily from the lottery - £220m out of £300m. The rest has come from the Department for Eduter-school club works. Rather they adapt in schools, community centres, youth clubs cation and Employment (£50m) and £30m

Why the working life is not always a bed of roses for the single parent

London Luton to

Carmen Fielding, a single parent who wanted to return to work, found child care hard to find, expensive and inadequate.

Not wanting to be labelled as one of those single mothers who.

was three years old.

I looked for work locally but couldn't find anything that paid a reasonable salary, so decided to go back to the City. I thought that by returning to work I would be better off - financially, mentally and socially. Also that my son would benefit from

to return to work when my son a state nursery, he was considclub and therefore had to be looked after by a childminder.

When at five he was finally old enough, I thought, "great, now we will be able to afford some of those little luxuries in life". Not so. For a start teatime club has to be paid for if you are working (regardless of income).

sponge off the state, I decided easy. Although my son went to after school, so if you can't get through his book and spellings home until 7pm further child ered too young for teatime care is needed. After 6pm it is 7.30pm. He quite often ends the considered unsociable hours evening in tears. and is charged at double the

> spellings every day and is expected to complete these tasks. By the time we get in at 7.15pm,

so that I can have him in bed by

I thought that perhaps the rate. Child care is very costly. teatime club could help him My son comes home with a with his reading, but they do not reading book and list of have enough staff to listen to individuals read. As a result my son is in the bottom group of his class for reading ability. Edu-

After school clubs don't operate during the holidays, so for those without a flexible childminder this can prove a nightmare and again extremely expensive finding short-term

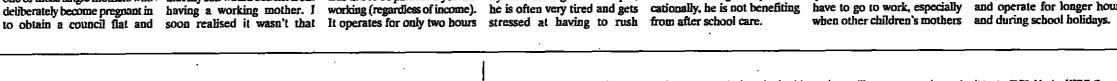
reliable child care. Even though I have been back at work for two years, my son still misses me desperately. He can't understand why l

don't seem to. Events put on by the school are usually during working hours, so I miss out and my son again feels disappointed I can't be there.

It is unfair to force single mothers out to work by reducing their benefits and do not see how providing more after school clubs is going to improve things. They will have to be free have to go to work, especially and operate for longer hours



Carmen: Her son misses her and she misses out



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reports from Fire

First drag of the day: scientists discover why it tastes so good

tastes wonderful - better than all the others which follow, in fact. But why? The usual explanation is that the pleasure comes from the rush of the nicotine - an addictive drug like cocaine or heroin – reaching a body which has been starved overnight. That doesn't explain. though. why the others don't taste so good, yet seem as necessary.

But scientists have now pinned that early-morning buzz down to the drug's particular effects on nerve receptors in the brain which respond to dopamine, a chemical which regulates mood and behaviour. And as behaviour is partly

rewarding events, we keep trying to repeat that first "bit". This reinforcement process goes on in a part of the brain called the ventral tegmental area (VTA) where neurons respond to the chemical messenger dopamine. Addictive drugs

shaped by the reinforcement of

act on the VIA and exploit the reinforcement-reward cycle. John Dani and colleagues at the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. Texas, explain today

Yes, that first cigarette of the day in the journal Nature how they examined rat brains which contained groups of dopamine receptors, and looked at what happened when they added nicotine in the concentrations found in smokers' blood.

At first, the neurons fired more powerfully but then the responses moved down - meaning that it would take a greater input to excite the same response.

Also, that first cigarette will tend to last a long time: nicotine in the blood has a half-life of about two hours. But once they have been exposed to nicotine for more than five minutes, the dopamine receptors' sensitivity begins falling. The researchers found in three tests that the nicotine concentrations found in a smoker's blood during the day do not let the dopamine receptors recover their sensitivity. To provide enough nicotine to excite the receptors to their first-of-the-day level you would probably need so much that you would vomit.

Only when nicotine intake stops during sleep do the receptors recover and make the first cigarette seem so delightful.



Morning high: Cigarettes taste better after a nights's sleep, and now scientists know why Photograph: John Lawrence

Labour set to ban under-18s from buying cigarettes

The Government hinted yesterday that it is to raise the legal age for tobacco sales from 16 to 18. Colin Brown, Chief Political Correspondent, says the public health minister, Tessa Jowell, is planning a White Paper to help adults kick the habit and curb the rising trend among young girls.

The legal age for buying or supplying cigarettes and tobacco is likely to be raised from 16 to 18 as part of a wider package of measures to curb smoking in the New Year in a White Paper on public health.

Tessa Jowell, the public health minister, made it clear that the Government was moving towards equalising the legal age for tobacco and alcohol at 18 to make it easier for shopkeepers to stop sales to children. There could also be help to wean adults off tobacco by encouraging family doctors to prescribe nicotine substitutes, such as nicotine chewing gum or patches, on the National Health Service.

Ms Jowell told the cross-party Commons Select Committee on Health that she was coucerned by the rise in smoking among children, particularly girls. Children of 12 were buying cigarettes, and shopkeepers believed it would be easier to stop sales if the legal age was raised to 18. The White Paper is also expected to propose an identity card for young people as proof of age which could apply to alcohol and tobacco.

cigarette machines. "We are also concerned with the ease with which young people are able to buy cigarettes from machines and the way that health warnings may be obscured," she said.

There could be new curbs on

public places could be introduced, but she indicated the Government would avoid legislation, where possible, to maintain public support for its action. "This is not about bossy and intrusive government. It is about doing what we can do to: protect children from the harm that tobacco and smoking does," Ms Jowell said. res, ivis lowell said.

The minister was given as:

grilling by Labour and Thry MPs over the Government's decision to seek a permanent exemption for Formula One motor racing from a ban on tobacco sponsorship at the council of health ministers on 4 December. She brushed aside renewed Tory claims that the de cision was linked to the donation to Labour Party funds of £1m by Bernie Ecclestone, the Formula One chief, but she faced the toughest questioning so far from Labour MPs.

Ms Jowell responded by giving the clearest signal yet that she will offer a compromise at next week's European council, but she said she was not prepared to negotiate in public. It is understood Britain has a fallback position to delay a ban for 10 years, but the European Commission is seeking to cutthe delay to five or six years.

Meanwhile, Ms Jowell was accused of breaching ministerial gnidelines by failing to deliver a memorandum to MPs on the cost of imposing a ban. Tory MPs will challenge her next week when she is called to give more evidence to a Commons committee on European legislation over the alleged breach in the rules.

David Clark, the Chancellor of the Duchy, said on 18 November that the Government required all departments to publish compliance cost assessments for all regulatory proposals likely to have an impact on business, charities and the voluntary sector. Guidelines for ministers say the assessment should be prepared at the same More curbs on smoking in time as an explanatory memorandum on proposed EU legislation is laid before parliament.

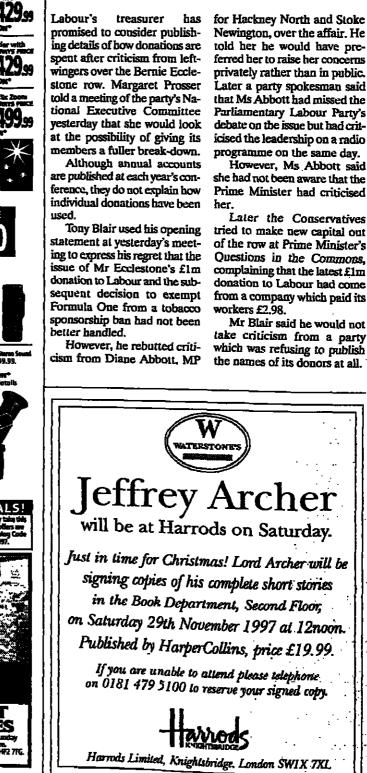
Party to publish donor spending

Newington, over the affair. He told her he would have preferred her to raise her concerns privately rather than in public. Later a party spokesman said that Ms Abbott had missed the . Parliamentary Labour Party's debate on the issue but had criticised the leadership on a radio programme on the same day.

However, Ms Abbott said she had not been aware that the Prime Minister had criticised

Later the Conservatives tried to make new capital out of the row at Prime Minister's Questions in the Commons, complaining that the latest £1m donation to Labour had come from a company which paid its

Mr Blair said he would not take criticism from a party which was refusing to publish the names of its donors at all.





Lethal epidemic is much larger than feared



Bare facts: Sufferers Aileen Getty (left), Glenn Gaylord, Gretchin Adams and David Herndon-White are 'exhibits' at a Los Angeles art show designed to counter fears about Aids, with viewers invited to 'Please touch'

How a disease is dividing the wark duits and children with HV/AIDS: 150,800 recentage of Adults affected: 0.07 WESTERN EUROPE Adults and children with HV/AIDS: 538,088 Percentage of Adults affected: 0.3 Number of orphans: 8,788 EAST ASIA/PACIFIC
Adults and children with HIV/AIDS: 440,000
Percentage of Adults affected: 0.05
Number of orphans: 1,900
Percentage of affected adults who are NORTH AFRICA/MIDDLE EAST Adults and children with HTV/AIDS: 210,000 Percentage of Adults affected: 8.13 Number of orphans: 14,200 Percentage of affected adults who are women: 21 Adults and children with HV/AIDS: 310,600 Percentage of Adults affected: 1.9 Number of orphans: 48,600 SOUTH/SOUTH EAST ASIA/ Adults and children with HIV/AIDS: 6m Percentage of Adults affected: 0.6 Number of orphans: 220,000 Percentage of affected adults who are women: 25 SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA Adults and children with HIV/AIDS: 20.8m Percentage of Adults affected: 7.4 LATUR RUNGSEND Adults and children with HTV/AIDS: 1.3m Percentage of Adults affected: 0.5 Number of orphans: 91,000 Percentage of affected adults who are wo AUSTRALIA/NEW ZEALAND Adults and children with HIV/AIDS: 12,600 Percentage of Adults affected: 0.1

Many more people are infected with the HIV virus than previously thought - probably 30 million in all, according to the United Nations. But the victims of this 'invisible epidemic' are mostly in Africa. In Western Europe the number of new Aids cases is dropping sharply; in the United States, new cases are falling for the first time in nearly 20 years. John Lichfield reports from Paris.

The poor countries are getting sicker and the rich countries are getting better - better treatment, better informed and better behaved.

This was the underlying message of the UN report published Africa. to mark World Aids Day yes-

A combination of greater public awareness, improved precautions and the increased use of the new anti-retroviral drugs has, for the first time, se- collapsed to the levels seen in countries.

In the developing world, and especially in Africa, the virus continues to take an extraordinary, and often hidden, toll of UN also reports worrying suffering. It is estimated that trends. The sheer size of Asian 2,300,000 people will die of populations makes the prospect

Aids-related diseases this year, a 50-percent increase on

pending

1996. One in five of the victims will be children, mostly infected from birth. New infections, although much slower in Europe and the US, are occurring at an "alarming rate" in Africa and parts of Asia and Latin

America. The UNрго-Aids gramme now

admits that it has "grossly under-estimated" the number of people who have the HIV virus, and full-blown Aids, in Africa. The missing victims - about 4,600,000 more than previous calculations - account for a large part of the vastly increased global estimate of the reach of the virus. The UN dustrialised world. The number now believes that 30,000,000 people in the world have HIV or Aids, a 50 per cent increase on last year's figure. Of these, 5,800,000 people were infected during the course of this year.

The main message of our report is that the Aids epidemic is far from over. In fact, it's far worse," Peter Piot, executive director of the UN Aids programme, told a press

conference in Paris yesterday. Much more needs to be

done to increase awareness of HIV, and the methods of safe sex which can control its spread, Mr Piot said. The UN estimates that nine out of 10 H1V victims around the world, mostly in the developing countries, are not even aware they are infected. Even in the West, Mr Piot said, prevention campaigns are not sufficient.

"I have a daughter at a lycée here (in Paris) and what she's getting in terms of sex education is inadequate."

Bernard Kouchner, the French Health Minister, said he intended to push for the creation of a world-wide fund to combat Aids, especially in the developing world. Two-thirds of all HTV victims are in sub-Saharan Africa, according to the UN report. One in 12 of sexually active adults in Africa has the virus; one in 10 in South

The impact of HIV on the continent is so devastating that it has wiped out 30 years of gains from improved nutrition and medical treatment. In Botswana, life expectancy has riously checked the HIV/Aids the late 60s. In Zimbabwe, 10 years has been wiped off the life expectancy of every child born since 1990.

In Asia, where HIV did not strike until the late 1980s, the

> of a full-scale epidemic horrifying, the UN warns. Two separate outbreaks are reported in China. one among drugusers in the south-west of the country, another among bo-

> > rate

terms, only 1 per

cent of the adult

population. But

this still repre-

HIV/Aids: 2.3 million mosexuals along the eastern seaboard. In India, the infecof deaths due to HIV/Aids: II.7 million remains small. in proportional

Percentage of adults worldwide living with HIV/Aids: 1.0

WORLD TOLL

People living with

HIV/Aids: 30.6 million

New HIV infections in

1997 deaths due to

1997: 5.8 million

sents up to 5,000,000 people, making India the country with the largest number of HIV victims in the world.

Although Mr Piot warned against complacency, the report suggests that a significant turning-point has been reached in the battle against HIV in the inof new Aids cases in Western Europe will drop by 30 per cent this year, partly because of the use of the new drugs which arrest the onset of Aids proper, partly because the number of HIV infections is declining. In the US, figures suggest that the number of new Aids cases fell by 6 per cent last year, the first fall since the epidemic began in the late 1970s.



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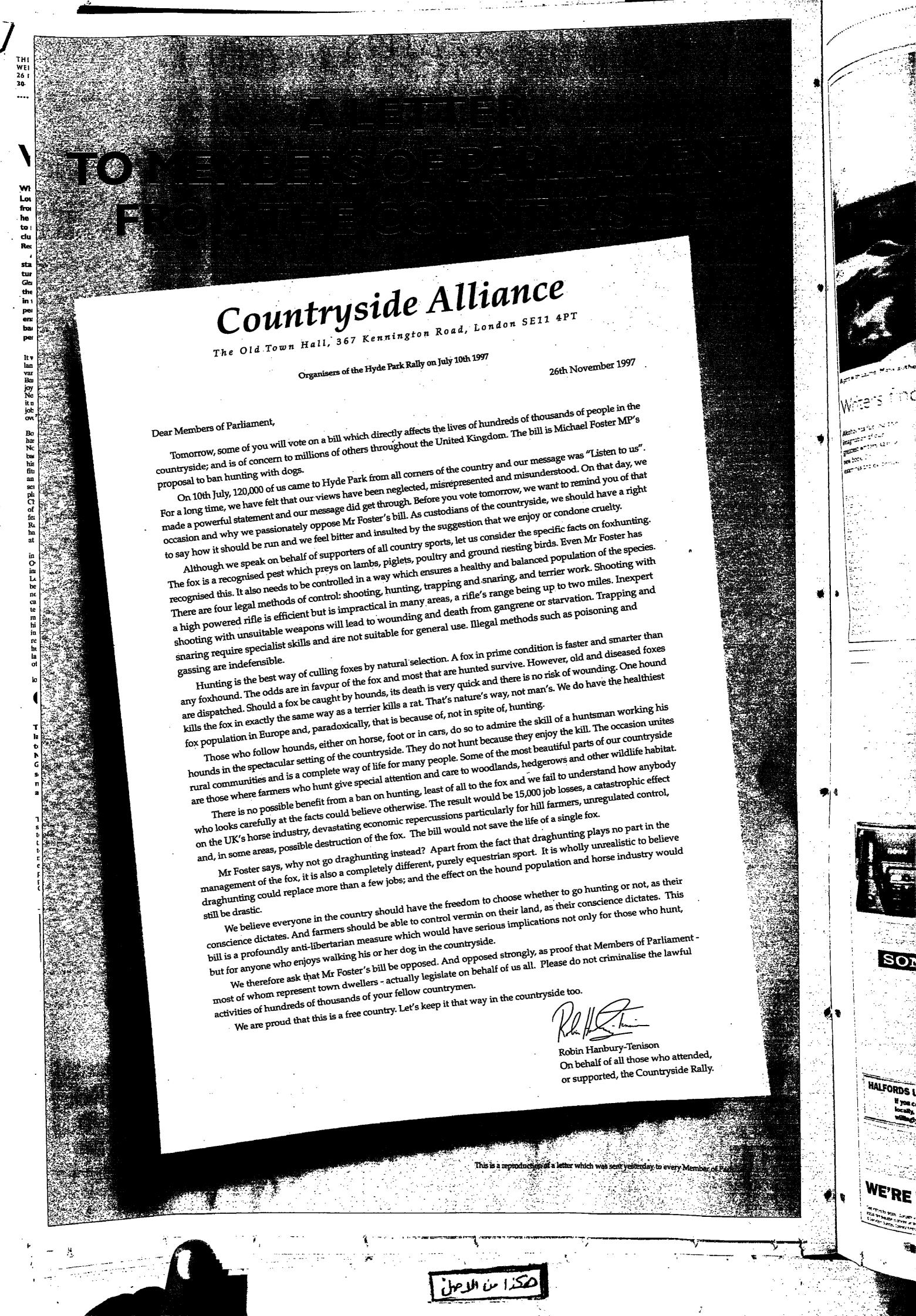
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9/ARTS NEWS

THE INDEPENDENT THURSDAY 27 NOVEMBER 1997



A pint with Laurie: Many authors, such as Lee, Wilde and Shakespeare enjoyed a jar or two, and their creative powers were none the worse for it

Photograph: Rob Stratton

Writers find inspiration at the bottom of a bottle

Alcohol has fuelled the imagination of our greatest writers says a new book. David Lister examines the evidence.

Fancy writing the great novel, or crafting a brilliant play? In that case, have a drink. According to a new book, imbibing to excess is essential to the covers many of the best known creative spirit.

It is not just the well-known high livers with strong livers such as Dylan Thomas, Ernest Hemingway, Brendan Behan, Kingsley Amis and Evelyn Waugh who mixed alcohol and . literature. According to research carried out for the new book Creative Spirits: A Toast To Literary Drinkers - to be pubens, Orwell, Hardy, Wilde and whose drinking is one of the most of the afternoon. Then to ter ales of Bass and Allsop' creative spirit to other spirits. The book's author, John

Booth, who also wrote The Good Pub Guide and A History of European Wine, has combined in the work an anthology of writing about drink with research into the drinking habits of the authors. To the despair of anti-drink campaigners, it writers in English literature though not a single one of them is female. Women, it seems, have been able to write

unarguable that drink has been as powerful an influence on creative writing as love, philosophy, desire, for fame or any other form of inspiration ... The lished next week by Andre pages of literature are crowd-Deutsch - Shakespeare, Dick- ed with bibulous characters steak ... Drinking in White's bottle of stout a day. The bit-

Tolkien all owed part of their few principal human activities can claim expert knowledge, Love, passion, carnal knowledge, murder, war, gluttony, jealousy, infidelity, bestiality some may boast of knowledge of one or other or all of these,

but it is of drink that most can

wrote in his diary: "Tuesday, a

drunken day; lunched at Beef-

speak with perfect assurance." The tales of some of the modern writers are not surprising. When Kingsley Amis's first novel, Lucky Jim, was read by the publishers, he was told that a description of his without an aperitif. hero drinking 10 or 12 pints in Booth says: "It is surely a session stretched credulity, so Amis, with extreme reluctance, reduced it to a measly eight pints. Neither is it a great shock to see that Evelyn Waugh

of which most literary people Then to St James's for another bottle of champagne."

But it is it shock to see Shakespeare included in the ranks of the boozers. Booth explains that drinking "sack", an in Shakespeare's Henry plays, but this wine was unknown in Britain during the reigns of Henry IV and Henry V. According to Booth, "... it is reasonable to assume that the

Shakespeare." The image of Thomas Hardy as melancholy, introspective and respectable is not the whole truth either says Booth. "When ill, he recovered in Dorset, taking a prescribed

comes from the direct experi-

ence of none other than Will

Beefsteak where I got drunk ... were also recommended. And it is certain he sampled the 'sweet cyder' of Dorset that he remembered so fondly in his poems. The cider-making described in his novel Desperate Remedies has the authentic amber wine, is mentioned a lot flavour of personal observa-

As for Charles Dickens, the contents of his wine cellar are sale in 1870: "4 dozen cyder; 12 dozen sherry, dry golden sherpaean of praise for the drink ry; 18 bottles sherry solera; 1 dozen amontillado; 13 magnums of gold sherry, 4 dozen 18 magnums port vintage 1851; 8 doz dry champagne, 17 doz 16 botts Volnay, 16 botts clos

known to be drunk, once ob- and the shaking hands."

serving: "I have discovered that alcohol, taken in sufficient quantity, produces all the effects of drunkenness." But references in The Importance of Being Earnest show a detailed knowledge of fine wines and he was described by friends as "a three-decanter man".

However, aspiring writers tempted to consider hard drinking to improve their revealed in a catalogue for its chances of being published should note the words of J.B. Priestley quoted in the book. He wrote: "Drunkenness in good literature is not like drunkenness in real life; it is rare old madeira; 5 dozen port; subtly spiritualised; the sparkle, bloom and fragrance of wine, the jolly comradeship of the very fine old Highland whisky, bottle, the Bacchic ardours and ecstasies, are all there, without the hiccoughs and the Oscar Wilde was never carbuncles, the sagging mouth



Museums which charge lose a third of visitors

Visitor figures at national museums which charge admission have fallen, a survey shows. David Lister, Arts News Editor, reveals the decrease in visitor numbers as the

Government prepares to drop its commitment to free admission.

If the Government drops its commitment to free admission at national museums and galleries next week, the result could be a decline in museum attendance.

A private survey of visitor numbers at national museums which have already adopted compulsory charges shows that visitor numbers have largely declined. The survey was carried out by two peers, the Earl of Clancarty and Lord Freyberg. and was given to The Independent. All the figures come from the museums' own records and show on average a 33 per cent drop in visitors from the time they imposed charges to now.

The Natural History Museum had 2.5 million visitors in 1986-87 before compulsory charges, 1 6 million in 1988-89 and 1.8 million in 1996-97.

The National Maritime Museum had 798.682 in 1983-84 before charges, 528,000 the next year and 467,794 in 1996-97. The Royal Air Force Museum had 323,000 in 1986-87, introduced charges in 1988 and is down to 135,344 in 1996-97.

The Science Museum had 3,166,294 visitors in 1987-88, introduced charges in 1988, saw 1,121,103 pass through its doors in 1989-90, and 1,548,366 in

The Victoria and Albert Museum had 1,577,608 in 1984-85, introduced voluntary donations in 1985 and dropped to 1,003,306 in 1986-87, introduced compulsory charges in November 1996 and had 1.2 million visitors, in 1996-97.

The only national institution to have increased visitor numbers after charging is the Imperial War Museum in London. It had 396,000 visitors in 1987, introduced charges in 1989, when figures rose to 412,000, and last year attracted 444,000.

David Barrie, director of the National Art Collections Fund, said last night: "If Chris Smith wants equality of access then the best way to achieve it is free admission." As revealed in The Independent on Monday, Mr Smith, the Culture Secretary, has failed to persuade the Treasury to increase visitor taxes on tourists to create a special fund for national museums and galleries so that they don't have to impose charges.

The British Museum trustees meet at the end of next week and may decide to charge, for admission for the first time in the museum's history. The Tate Gallery, National Gallery and National Portrait Gallery are also free, though the Tate may now decide to charge for admission to its new Tate Gallery of Modern Art at Bankside which opens in 2000.

The Government's likely abandonment of the principle of free admission flies in the face of earlier commitments. The Prime Minister, Tony Blair, said in February, when he was leader of the Opposition: "We are concerned about the introduction of admission charges in national museums. The evidence suggests that high charges can lead to a big decline in attendance."

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The Chancellor appealed for wage restraint in his 'Green **Budget'** but the shortage of skilled workers means some salaries are rocketing. Barry Clement, Labour Editor, warns that the market is king.

Incomes would continue to be driven upwards despite Gordon Brown's pleas for pay restraint, the private sector warned yesterday. Shortages of skilled people from electricians to senior City information technology specialists would force employers to increase pay rates.

One computer troubleshooter recently changed jobs in the City and saw his salary rise from £65,000 to £90,000. In the London area the pay of selfemployed electricians has risen from £6 to £13 an hour over the last year.

While in the past unions and professional associations may have been able to exercise a moderating influence on wages, these days the market is king. During the recession the laws of supply and demand depressed levels of pay, but an increasing clamour for skilled workers has meant rock-



In demand: Kim Johanessen, 28, IT developer with Americas Nationsbanks in the City. Salary, £200,000 pks bonuses

National statistics for the whole of the private sector which show wage settlements of between 3 and 5 per cent edging up slowly - mask bur-

geoning inflationary pressures. Bank of England officials remarked in their recent quarterly report that many of their contacts expected higher pay increases in the new year. In particular the bank discovered

shortages in service sector occupations such as accountancy, information technology (IT) and law. The report said that some computer specialists - recruited to deal with technical difficulties associated with the millennium and the introduction of the euro - were being awarded "golden handcuffs" of an extra year's salary to ensure they stayed put until 2,000.

Rob Wirszycz, director-general of the Computer Software Services Association, estimated a shortfall of up to 50,000 TT experts. One head-hunter said salaries were rising by the week. Responding to the Chancellor's call for restraint, Mr. Wirszycz said: "There are extreme demand conditions faced with a relatively constrained supply."

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There's a Great Deal going on

Photograph: Glenn Copus

Lower down the income Quarry Dougall, who specialises in recruiting lawyers, scale, members of the Amalsaid pay restraint was "Simply gamated Engineering and not commercially viable". He Electrical Union are due to resaid there was a marked shortspond today to the offer of a age of newly qualified solicitors. 30 per cent pay rise over the Also, United States firms had next three years. Ken Jackson, been 'bidding up" salaries. A general secretary of the union, newly qualified lawyer could exwas doubtful whether they pect £30,000 as a starting salary would accept the increase from a British firm, but up which would give them a no-Adrian Fox, director of £55,000 from a US competitor. tional £9 an hour in 2,000.

Virgin backs down over walk-on fares

Virgin Trains, tried last month be reviewed in the future". to abolish its cheapest walk-on fares. But opposition from passenger groups and industry regulators has forced management

to think again. The company, which is owned by Richard Branson, planned to withdraw its cheap Super Saver tickets in January. The proposals - revealed exclusively by The Independent would have meant passengers paying up to 37 per cent more to travel using the cheapest walk-on" tickets.

Super Saver tickets, which can be used on any day except Fridays and summer Saturdays, were not protected by legislation, and rail campaigners have predicted they would be the first fares to go.

Chris Tibbits, the managing director of Virgin Trains, wrote to "interested parties" last month, saying the company was undertaking a major restructuring of West Coast leisure

However, Virgin confirmed yesterday it had abandoned the proposals. "We have listened to various parties and because of the constructive feedback we received, we are going to keep the Super Saver," said Brian Barrett, chief executive of Virgin Trains. Mr Barrett, however, added that the decision "would

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Instead Super Saver fares will rise between 3 and 10 per . cent. Directors had not counted on the storm of protest they encountered. "We have always maintained that walk-on capacity must be maintained," said Paul Burroughs, assistant secretary of the Rail Users' Consultative Committee for

North Western England. The rail regulator, John Swift QC, also made it clear that he "understands the concern ... that the withdrawal of tickets. such as Super Savers may erode the attractiveness of rail as a flexible, reasonably-priced option for longer-distance travel".

The proposals would have made "turn-up-and-go" train travel more expensive. The cheapest "walk-on" fare from London to Manchester is now £36. From next year, passengers would have had to pay £ 46.50 a 29 per cent rise.

The most severe criticism came from the office of passenger rail franchising Rail campaigners gave the decision a cautious welcome. "We do not know if Virgin will increase the fares later or add more restrictions on when they can be used," said Jonathan Bray, director of Save Our Railways.

— Randeep Ramesh Transport Correspondent

Jowell warned on gene patenting

minister, has been warned by leading British geneticists that the Government's policy on gene patenting could cost the National Health Service millions of pounds - mostly payable in royalties to American and Canadian biotechnology companies.

The Council of Ministers meets today in Brussels to discuss the proposed European directive on biotechnology

The £10m project involves

Tessa Jowell, the public health patenting. Nobody is yet sure whether the directive would allow companies to claim rights to individual human genes, rather than insisting that they must patent a new technique such as a test using the gene. The US already allows companies to patent the DNA sequence of a gene - including

human genes - outright. The British government

chairman of the British Society for Human Genetics, says that Ms Jowell got it wrong when she said the directive would make little difference.

"I believe there are significant implications for the NHS and there is a need for strategic planning to cope with the predictable changes and avoid the risk of scandal," he said in a letter to the minister.

— Roger Dobson and Charles Arthur

backs the directive as it stands. But Professor Andrew Read,

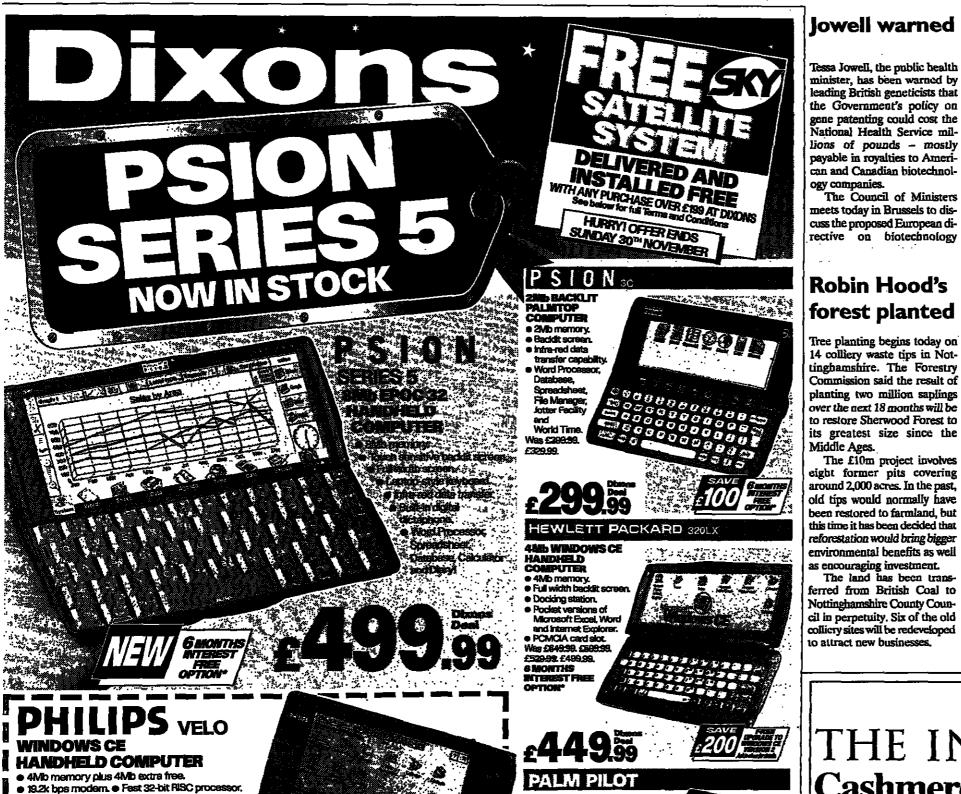
The Quiet Life

by Seneca (4BC-AD65; translated by Andrew Marvell)

DAILY POEM

Climb at Court for me that will Tottering favour's pinnacle: All I seek is to lie still. Settled in some secret nest In calm leisure let me rest, And far off the public stage Pass away my silent age. Thus when without noise, unknown, I have liv'd out all my span, I shall die, without a groan, An old honest country man, Who expos'd to others' eyes Into his own heart ne'er pries. Death to him's a strange surprise.

The Daily Poems today and tomorrow come from the new Everyman's Library volume of Roman Odes, Elegies and Epigrams, selected and edited by Peter Washington (£9.99)





1.73

Let children take more risks, says school head

Schools and parents should stop wrapping children in cotton wool and let them take more risks. Jackie Lang, president of the Girls' Schools Association, says the dangers of the modern world have been exaggerated. Judith Judd Education Editor, reports on a warning to

Parents are "running themselves ragged" ferrying children from one activity to another and cocooning them from risk.

overprotective parents.

Mrs Lang, head of Walthamsaid some children at her school did not own overcoats because they were brought to school, mishap. wearing their blazers, in a car every day.

aren't allowed to walk to school or catch a train or bus. They can't disappear for hours into the countryside or town. They have to be supervised and entertained at all times. Their parents run themselves ragged to fill the hours when once they would just have gone out to play or mucked around.

"So the poor kids have gym club on Monday and tennis on Tuesday and violin lessons on Wednesday and extra maths on Thursday and Brownies on Friday - all worthwhile activities in themselves and in moderation, but it's a frenetic life."

As a result, she said at a press briefing earlier, "They never malice."

have to wait at a wet bus stop, never had to buy a ticket, never have the fun of sitting on the top of a double-decker bus in London and of learning to be independent."

We were in danger, she added, of rearing a generation that could not assess risks and which might be tempted into "drink and drugs and dodgy sex and driving too fast" to satisfy their natural urge to be daring.

She said that we had to stop thinking in such extreme terms. "We hear about Dunblane. We bear about murders and rapes because information about them is so universally available. We are maybe exaggerating their likeliness."

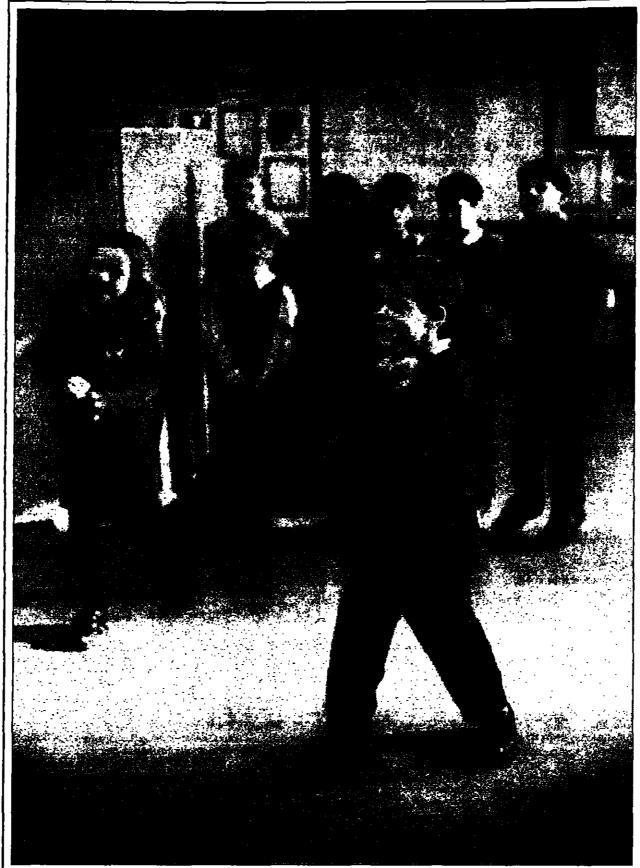
Parents and teachers should ensure that young people knew what to do if there were a stow Hall, Sevenoaks. Kent, mishap rather then trying to prevent a possibility of them ever coming into contact with a

"If we teach children in a blanket way that all strangers She told the GSA conference are evil, that they should nevin Bristol yesterday: "Children er smile at a strange adult, that they should hurry from door to door, we are breeding an unhealthy climate for them."

Schools, too, were under pressure to cocoon children because they were constantly in fear of the worst-case scenario.

"Schools are deeply afraid of slipping up in some way ... they are afraid that putting a foot wrong with a parent or a hand wrong with a child will result in a damaging court case."

She admitted that when she was at school she had not been a terribly good girl. "I always have a soft spot for those who break the rules provided that they are not doing it out of



Vocal exercise: Pupils at East Sheen Primary, south London, experiment at the opera workshop Photograph: Tom Pilston prompting hand-over-mouth

Purple wigs and flying handbags bring opera into the classroom

Think opera is all about fat ladies singing? Sevenyear-olds at south London primary schools can tell you otherwise. Lucy Ward, Education Correspondent, listens in on music lessons with a difference.

As far as class 3P at East Sheen Primary School is concerned, opera comes in a purple punk wig and pink tights and stomps around throwing its handbag about. What is more, it does not happen in another language on a distant stage, but right in front of you in your classroom. And - and this is best of all - you can join in.

Class 3P are only seven or eight years old, but yesterday they were treated to an early taste of Mozart, Handel and Ravel thanks to the Curious Opera Group. The company, based in Teddington, southwest London, sends a team of three professional performers - a mezzosoprano, a pianist and a director/conductor - into primary schools to help youngsters explore the link between feelings and music.

For the 30 members of Mrs Pemberton's class, the emotion being musically explored yesterday quickly became apparent. They had barely settled cross-legged in the school hall, when the singer Harriet Roberts, in Jenningsstyle grey shorts and half-mast socks as the naughty child who will not do his homework from Ravel's opera L Enfant et les Sortileges, stamped angrily in front of them.

Without warning or introduction, Harriet burst into song at full volume,

shock, giggles, suspicion and sheer wide-eyed amazement. Unexpected opera never fails to have an effect, according to Curious Opera's organiser Anne Hornby.

Led by Lynn Binstock, workshop co-ordinator and head of staff directors at English National Opera, Class 3P worked out just why the naughty child was angry, and compared his frustration with the miserable fury of Dorabella, the betrayed sweetheart in Mozart's Cosi fan Tiate who wept beneath her purple wig and tossed her pink handbag and stuffed toys around the room.

Gathering round the piano, they composed, sang and acted a phrase describing their own feelings when angry - a heartfelt "I get really, really, really in rage" - before creating their own cardboard "Pandora's Box" filled with collage materials to represent anger.

Encouraging young children to explore angry emotions can bring revelations, according to Ms Binstock. "A lot comes out about families, and bothers and sisters or parents being unfair. In one school, we could really feel something bubbling up and it turned out the kids were upset about the dinner ladies ordering them about. We did a whole dinner ladies number."

David Ford, head of East Sheen, laments the lack of time for such sessions as the pressures of the national curriculum combine with parents' ever-rising interest in the three Rs. "There is a greater place for groups like Curious Opera than ever before - they provide schools with the opportunity to give kids experiences we may not have the resources to provide any more."

Audit Commission blames lack of nurseries plan for drop in playgroup places

Councils have a long way to go to meet the Government's timetable for scrapping nursery vouchers, say public spending watchdogs. Lucy Ward explains why, even though education authorities have been told to expand nursery education, playgroup places are being closed.

Local education authorities are often ignew nursery classes had led existing playnoring the role of playgroups or private group places to close because of overnurseries as they draw up plans for more nursery places, the Audit Commission said yesterday. Its study found that only half of LEAs had formal systems for consulting private and voluntary nurseries, despite being required to work together with other providers to fulfil government promises on expanding pre-school education. In some cases, moves by LEAs to open

provision, auditors found. Elsewhere, failure by LEAs to plan adequately meant vacant nursery places - in two-thirds of schools in one authority - were not being removed. Where there were enough places,

they were sometimes unevenly spread. Auditors carried out their review last month as LEAs worked to fulfil targets on nursery places. Shortly after gaining office

last May, the Government acted on its manifesto pledge to scrap the nursery voucher scheme introduced by the Conservatives. Instead, LEAs were required to establish partnerships with the private and voluntary sectors and produce early-years development plans outlining how they would guarantee at least a part-time nursery place for

every four-year-old by next September. According to the commission's review, many authorities "lacked a clear strategy"

too little information on existing provision cess to a quality service." and levels of need to allow them to plan a strategy properly. There were also variations between authorities in the level of nursery provision for children with special needs.

The controller of the Audit Commission, Andrew Foster, said that although many LEAs had made progress, "much remains to be done if all authorities are to be able to meet the objectives set out by the Gov-

on which to base their plans. Often, they had errument and to ensure all children have ac-

Playgroup leaders said the report confirmed their warnings that playgroups were suffering as LEAs were left in charge. Margaret Lochrie, leader of the Pre-School Learning Alliance, said: "The findings are spot on. This term there have been virtually no four-year-olds in voluntary sector provision - most of them have been in school reception classes."

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Cook dilates on pain **\ of EU enlargement**

Britain will use its **European Union** presidency to promote sweeping internal changes to clear the way for the historic reunification of Europe. the Foreign Secretary said yesterday. Robin Cook warned that this will mean sacrifices by the EU as well. Katherine **Butler reports from** Budapest.

In remarks which appear calculated to bring Britain even closer to the European political mainstream, Mr Cook said existing members of the EU would have to sacrifice "narrow national interests" for the goal of "a return to the Europe our grandparents knew".

The alternative would be to allow the divisions of the last 40 years to fester; to replace the Curtain separating the haves from the have-nots". Addressing the Hungarian Parliament at the start of a visit to prepare for the launch next year of EU membership negotiations with

yesterday it was investigating al-

legations that two British sol-

nightclub, threatened a police

officer with a gun and stamped

A Western diplomat said

the two British soldiers were

night spots after arriving from

Republic, Estonia and Slovenia, the Foreign Secretary stressed the reforms which must be tackled by applicant states.

But equally, he said, the EU would have to confront its own problems, even if that entailed sacrifices. "Without reform, enlargement will remain beyond reach. And for reform to happen, we will all have to accept that our common interest in a modernised and expanded union outweighs narrow national interests".

The Foreign Secretary's remarks signal the Government's willingness to promote not only "Agenda 2000", the package of reforms to the EU's expensive agriculture and regional-development policies, but also a shake-up of the bloc's outdated decision-making machinery.

Limiting the size of the policy-steering Commission, and reweighting the votes of individual governments in the lawmaking Council of Ministers are both viewed as pre-conditions Iron Curtain with "a Velvet to enlargement but heads of government ducked them when they were negotiating the Treaty of Amsterdam last June.

Mr Cook's speech in Budapest was calculated to convey a message of complete and un- its predecessor".

British soldiers in Sarajevo nightclub row

diers refused entry to a Sarajevo club early on Tuesday morning

making the rounds of Sarajevo a gun at a local police officer...

The Nato-led peace force said Luka in north-western Bosnia. custody of military police.

He said they were refused en-

trance to the Senator night

because they had been drinking,

and they were carrying

weapons. The soldiers pulled

down a Bosnian flag, stamped

on it, and one of them pointed

up by Italian soldiers and put in

The soldiers were picked

Hungary, Poland the Czech equivocal British support for enlargement. The "prize" would be peace and stability but also the ability to tackle organised crime, drug-trafficking and pollution. It would also open up trade opportunities, with a free market stretching "from Budanest to Birmingham".

Enlargement to Eastern Europe was also the policy championed by the Conservatives, who saw widening Europe as an opportunity to stymic any further moves to federalism.

Mr Cook sought, however, to draw a clear distinction between the two approaches, stressing to Hungarian leaders that Britain under Labour stood a much better chance of being able to deliver. "As a result of baving respect miside the European Union, we can be a more effective ally to our friends outside." The claim that Labour's "fresh start" with Britain's EU partners has been paying off in terms of influence appeared to have been successfully conveyed in Budapest. Gyula Horn, Hungary's Prime Minister, said he welcomed the new government's backing for enlargement "for its own sake and not merely to avoid deepening which was the attitude of

Bosnian Croat authorities

banned a race in the half of

Mostar they control. Sched-

uled to celebrate the Day of

Statehood of Bosnia, a country

hardliners do not recognise.

the race was to run from the

the divided town to the

— AP, Sarajevo and Mostar

Croatia intimidating Soros Foundation, claims US State Department from an organisation funded by

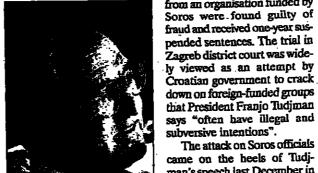
was heavy security at the Elysee Palace for a visit by former US president George Bush

French riot policemen try to jump-start their vehicle after engine failure on a Paris street yesterday. There

The US State Department has criticised Croatia for intimidating non-governmental organisations. A State Department spokesman said that it was 'unacceptable" for the Croatian government to engage in the public defamation of a prodemocracy foundation headed by the American billionaire, George Soros. Spokesman James Foley

said on Tuesday night that the United States believes that the Soros Foundation is making a "valuable contribution throughout Central and Eastern Europe, including in Croatia, to free speech and democratisaeastern Muslim-dominated part

He also expressed concern Croat-controlled western part. about suggestions that the Croatian government is plan-



George Soros: Valuable contribution to free speech'

ning an intimidation campaign against opposition journalist and non-governmental organi-

sations in Croatia.

Soros were found guilty of fraud and received one-year suspended sentences. The trial in Zagreb district court was widey viewed as an attempt by ing a school trip in Italy. Croatian government to crack This move was also seen in down on foreign-funded groups

says "often have illegal and subversive intentions". The attack on Soros officials came on the heels of Tudjman's speech last December in which he called the Hungarianborn US philanthropist George

Soros an enemy of the state. Croat authorities have also expelled from school a prominent human rights activist's daughter who took part in a theft. The daughter of Ivan Zvonimir Cicak - head of a

Croatian branch of Helsinki Human Rights Committee and a staunch critic of the government's policies - was expelled from school last week following her involvement in a theft dur-

Zagreb as an act of official pressure on Cicak, who often has been exposed to public defamation for criticising the government's poor human rights

Croatia said that it was not trying to stop the work of the Soros Foundation. "All implications of political motives in this case should be dropped since it is obvious that the issue here is intention of financial malpractice," said a government spokesman.

Students in Berlin march

can Ami

REELINGE WAY TO SPACE IN

White Crimina Services the streets

I AND WHO WAS COMPANY I ARE

Thousands of German students took to the streets of Berlin yesterday in the latest of a series of protests against the level of public funding for the university sector. Police said some 9,000 protesters had gathered in a peaceful march through the city centre.

The target of many of the student banners and chants was Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who sought to shift biame for the education cuts of recent years from Bonn to Germany's mainly opposition-controlled regional governments.

Swiss lead on land-mines

The Swiss government announced that it will set up an international centre to spearhead the clearance of land-mines globally. Its efforts will back up a new treaty banning their use, production and stockpiling.

The Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Mine Clearance will work with the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross. Other countries, including the United States, Britain, France and Sweden, have said they would like to contribute to the centre.

Turkey fined for detentions

The European Court of Human Rights condemned Turkey for arbitrarily detaining six former Kurdish members of the Ankara parliament in 1994.

The court said six members of the Kurdish People's Labour Party (HEP), were held in police custody for 12-14 days accused of separatism and undermining Turkish territorial integrity. It ordered Turkey to pay £3,158 each to two MPs, and £2,632 each to the four others.

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their headquarters in Banja

on a Bosnian flag.

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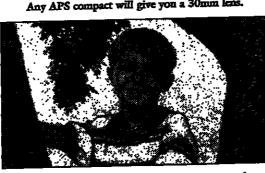
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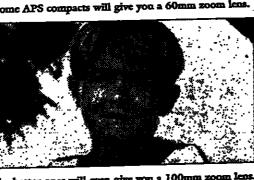
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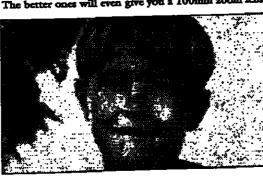




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And with the Vectis 40 there's no need to be afraid of the dark. Because the Vectis 40's advanced built-in Auto Flash gives you: 'Zoom Flash' which works in synch with the lens when you're zooming, 'Soft Flash' to keep flesh tones looking like flesh tones (not flash tones) and 'Manual Fill-Flash', to eliminate dark shadows that may fall across your subject in daylight conditions.

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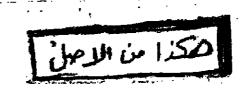
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Can America swallow just one more glass a day?

Famine is giving way to feast in the Californian vineyards, which have had a bumper harvest. But with wine drinking on the decline in the US, who will drink it all? Tim Comwell tests the waters.

 $s_{\mathsf{tudents}_{\mathsf{in}}}$ Berlin march

Swiss lead on i

land-mines

Turkey fined

for detention

Wine maker Scott McLeod lingered over the barrel sample from his 1996 Rubicon, a wine that won't be released until at least 2000. "The wicked youth," he called it, still an awkward adolescent when tasted against its mature uncle, the 1993. "A real teeninger," he said, studying the colour of the young wine - "growing too quickly, not its full self."

Since 1992, McLeod has worked at the Niebaum-Coppola winery, owned by the film director Francis Ford Coppola. The Rubicon, the flagship wine, retails for about \$55 (£33), and is one of the top-rated wines in the Napa Valley. The vineyard, first planted in 1855 against the valley's western slopes, presents a patchwork of autumnal reds and browns in a scene more European than Californian.

But it is also very Hollywood. The winetasting room at the original chateau sells pricey cigars, virgin olive oil, cutlery, and floral table cloths, along with Niebaum-Coppola sweat shirts. The winery museum contains, along with the history of the Finnish sea-captain who started the place, Don Corleone's desk from the Godfather

The good times are very much evident in the Napa Valley, in an industry where the old saw said that to make a small fortune, spend a large one. Several years of short harvests, as the California and American economies rebounded, drove prices and profit margins up in the mid 1990s. Millions of tourists now converge on the valley year round, to ride and dine on the wine train, eat in some of America's best restaurants, and do the tasting trail along picturesque roads not known for strict enforcement by local police. They spend far more on souvenirs - bottles with personalised gilt labels, for example - than your threatens to undo the prosperity of recent in the mid 1980s, Americans drank near- But surveys show that a majority of bouse-



crush is a giant. At about 3.5 million

tonnes, it is expected to break all records. The prediction for consumers in Europe and the US is that Californian wines will be plentiful and cheap. But the coming glut

often seems perilously short of water, is or Rubicon, to carry them. It is forcing marawash with wine this winter. The 1997 grape keters to grapple with an old question: why one more glass ... ' won't Americans drink more wine?

In 1996, Americans drank a meagre 1.92 gallons of wine a head. That is about half a strong prohibitionist streak. Red wine contion of French or Italian consumption. Even

average punter. But a shadow of uncertainty years, particularly for the mid-size winer- ly two and a half gallons. "Every year, we holds have no corkscrew, and suggest that hangs over Napa. California, a state that ies who have no quality name like Coppola, still tend to drink a little bit less," said many people, including waiters and wait-McLeod. "If we got everybody to drink just

> Wine drinkers are few in number, and tastes are fickle, in a country that still has as much as consumers in the UK, and a frac-sumption so ared recently after health studies suggested it broke down cholesterol.

resses, are intimidated by the physical act of pulling a cork. They are scared that opening a bottle of wine is wasteful because it

Bigger companies like Sutter Home, which expects to ship seven million cases of wine this year, and has unblushingly sold sweeter wines in screw top bottles to cater

Bumper crop: Grape pickers harvesting Sauvignon Blanc grapes at Rossi Ranch - a contract grower for the Frog's Leap Winery, in Napa County, California

Photograph: Ted Stefanski

to middle American taste buds, have launched advertising campaigns to encourage regular drinking. "Here's to each and every day," goes the slogan.

"Its the big nut to crack," said Stan Hock, Sutter Home spokesman. "People are actually spending more dollars on wine but they are drinking less. The other problem we have is that the Gen' X's [Generation X, the twenty-somethings] seem not to be interested in wine, and the wine industry is not doing much to try to appeal to that group." Sutter Home sells only about 10 per cent of its product overseas, a pattern repeated across the California wine in-

The US is still the dominant market. But while US wine exports are still tiny - the UK, a top importer, bought just \$80m (£49m)- worth last year - they have tripled in 10 years, while domestic sales stayed flat. Observers predict a new export drive to Europe, which seems eager to taste Cali-

In the meantime, niche marketing is developing. "Women for WineSense" and "Wine Brats" are just two of several Napa Valley groups promoting wine. Vivian Gay, in San Francisco, jointly runs the Isosceles Group, marketing wines specifically to gays, typically city dwellers with high disposable incomes and sophisticated tastes. California wines already face competition at home from European, South American and Australian wines, she said, whose share in the American market has grown in the shortage years. "If the wine industry doesn't really reach out for new consumers in a very pro-active way, they are in for a rude shock."

Pilgrim Fathers bequeath a puritan mentality, as America says no to alcohol

They call it Thanksgiving Day, fore however, a contrary mes- - highlighted by the somewhat nology, and another at the Uni- tire universities dry in the way dulgence Day. Eat that turkey, if you mean to drive. eat that pumpkin pie and drink

modest quantities.

accurate description of today's if you must, but why not make national holiday might be In- it milk or fizzy water? Especially

There is a new puritanism that alcohol. And not in here about drinking. While it fits with a wider Nineties con-

but for many Americans a more sage has been put about: drink authoritarian bans on smokers versity of Louisiana, have that whole counties are dry in cent series of alcohol-related deaths on student campuses.

dents this autumn, one at the

lighting up in public places - it spawned a national fit of soul- many areas. One such could be has also been spurred by a re- searching about alcohol con- Michigan State. "Going dry is Two deaths of young stuing parties for freshmen.

sumption at universities. Both being discussed," admitted a states, for example, will be punctests to wobbly drivers. deaths occurred at binge-drink- university spokesman. "Based on what's going on around the Indeed, there is debate in country, that's clearly not an

Meanwhile, drivers who take a bus called the Blood Alcohol peril. The highways in many tuated tonight by road-blocks

a tipple before taking the wheel Testing Mobile Lab (better the city, so have bars selling know they do so at increasing know as the Batmobile) that roams the state giving instant

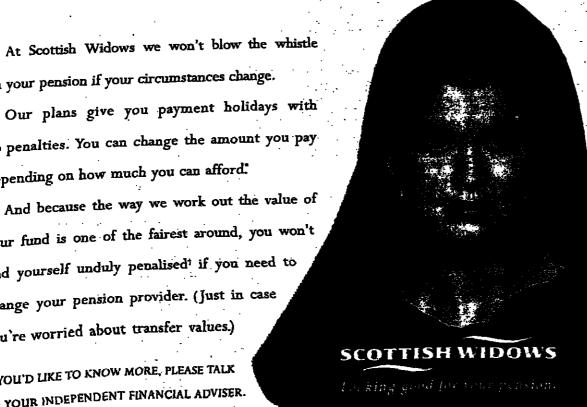
Of course, a backlash is where drivers will be stopped surely only just around the corrandomly and tested for alcohol. ner. In New York, it may already

made a stunning comeback in wildly expensive martinis. What is the favourite drink at the Four Seasons Bar, not far from The Independent, nowadays? A single glass of very special port. Cost? One hundred dollars.

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paid for in other ways. "Their main advantage is that they are a tax which citizens know will go to the services they want to use, and they will pay at a time when they have the maximum interest in the services," he says.

The debate about NHS

charges began in the summer af-

ter Frank Dobson, the Secretary

of State for Health, refused to

rule them out when questioned

about the Government's comprehensive spending review.

The British Medical Association

later issued a report suggesting

charges could raise up to £5bn

extra for the NHS, but said it favoured raising the extra cash-

Writing in the Public Fi-

nance Foundation's Review, Mr Hulme says if user-charges were

introduced, the better-off

should pay more and they

should be used only for buying

through taxation.

The NHS Confederation says general taxation "remains the fairest and most cost-effective source of finance for the

However, the confederation adds that a minimum 3 per cent ... annual increase above inflation is needed to meet increasing demand and medical advances. This year the increase is 1.37 per cent and in

some from secking treatment and damage their health. 1998-99 it is 1.66 per cent. Blair takes charge

NHS charging

dilemma splits

the experts

Two reports reveal

disagreement among

NHS organisations on

be charged for NHS

Laurance, Health Editor,

says it is an issue that

A radical government with a

large majority should have the

courage to consider charging pa-

tients for NHS treatment as a

way of paying for improve-

ments in the service, a special-

lic Finance Foundation, the re-

search arm of the Chartered

Institute of Public Finance and

Accountancy, says it is unlike-

ly that government revenues will

be sufficient to meet the needs

of the NHS through taxation

alone in the short or long term.

The NHS is, in a word,

But the NHS Confederation,

representing health authorities

and trusts, has ruled out charges

as inequitable and inefficient. In

a report published today, it

says making patients pay for vis-

its to the GP or for hotel

charges in hospital would deter

unaffordable.

Geoffrey Hulme, of the Pub-

treatment. Jeremy

will not go away.

whether patients should

Publication of the Government's long-awaited White Paper on the future of the ing for the NHS. National Health Service has been postponed for a week to enable Tony Blair to give his personal backing to the proposals the driving seat for changes to the way patient care is ordered.

The White Paper was due to be published on Monday, but the Prime Minister has taken charge of the launch of the reforms, which will replace fundholding by GPs with groups of family doctors acting together

There are increasing signs le the problems facing the NHS Brown, when he emphasised his commitment to increase health service funding above the rate of inflation in his pre-Budget

from a private meeting with ministers convinced that the

Government is preparing a "substantial" increase in fund-The Government has already provided an extra £300m to avert a crisis in the hospitals this winter. The British Medical Aswhich will put family doctors in sociation is privately warning ministers that an additional £500m is needed to avoid the queues growing, but is poised to mount a campaign for a massive increase, arguing that Britain still spends far less on health than its

European neighbours. Health spending in Britain, including private health, is 6.9 per cent of gross domestic product; France spends 9.8 per cent, Germany 10.4 per cent, Italy 7.7 per cent, and the United States 14.2 per cent.

— Colin Brown



Whitehall goes on the record as spin doctors tighten grip

The days of the unattributable briefing, may be numbered. The Prime Minister's Office will, from now on, give journalists on-the-record statements, as part of what it claims is a move towards open

government Colin Brown, Chief Political Correspondent,

Alastair Campbell, the Prime Minister's press secretary, is expected to go on the record to make the announcement that the Government is accepting the findings of the Mountfield report.

The aim is to overcome the confusion and lack of confidence caused by off-the-record briefings about Britain's entry into the European single

It will not mean the end of the spin doctors, who will con-

tinue to give briefings off the the standards and effectiveness record, but all Whitehall departments will be expected to go Education and Employment, on the record more often.

The changes are likely to be presented as part of the Gov- not true that the numbers have ernment's commitment to more soared, and the special advisers open government, but it will also help Downing Street keep clos- last government," said a er control of the Whitehall information machine, and to keep ministers "on message".

Downing Street will also establish a unit to co-ordinate ministers and Whitehall press officers in presenting the same nessage. It will also bring ministers' special advisers under the umbrella of the press office operation for the first time.

Peter Mandelson, the minister without portfolio, and Mr Campbell will play a key role on the central unit, with civil servants and special advisers. The Cabinet Office yesterday defended the rise in the number of special advisers from 38 to 68, with an increase in their salary bill from £1.8m under the Tories

adviser to the Department for and the UK anti-drugs co-ordinator with his deputy. "It is were being run down under the

Mr Mandelson told a press gallery lunch yesterday that the new unit would give "greater clarity" with the new rules of attribution. He also hinted that the social exclusion unit, which he heads in the Cabinet Office, is substantially to widen its brief.

Rejecting as "complete tosh' reports that the Government was bowing to vested interests such as the tobacco lobby and the food lobby, following a report in The Indendent, Mr Mandelson said the unit would be tackling social exclusion wherever it occurred.

It had made a start on housing estates, schools and truancy, but he said: "It is just a start and we will not be deflected on The additional posts include the course on which we are set."



Westminster arrival: Conservative MP Jacqui Lait, elected in Beckenham last week, arriving at the House of Commons to take her seat for the first time yesterday and being greeted by the Tory party leader, Wiliam Hague

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to order care from hospitals. that Mr Blair could seek to tackwith a hig increase in funding for the health service before the next election. A strong hint of a substantial increase in spending on the health service was given by the Chancellor, Gordon

report this week. Doctors leaders emerged

of NHS reforms

Minister on the rack over threat of pit closures

Labour MPs turned out in force yesterday for a Commons debate to urge a Government rescue operation for miners' jobs. Anthony Bevins, Political Editor. watched the minister helplessly squirm.

John Battle, Minister for Energy, faced determined pressure from Labour MPs to his rear. taunts from the Tories to his front, and the ominous presence generators together. of Peter Mandelson, Minister without Portfolio and the Prime Minister's personal troubleshooter, at his side, during a 90minute Commons debate yesterday morning.

Frustrated Labour MPs from the coalfield areas of the the moment. I hope you will country, caught between the hard-headed owners of a privatised industry and the Christmas insecurity of miners who again face the threat of pit clo-

sure, wanted action. But Mr Battle had little to offer, apart from an urgent request to Clare Spottiswoode, the Director General of Gas Supply, asking her to consider pushing coal off the agenda and whether a ban on the re-sale of gas from early gas-fired power

stations was anti-competitive. The presence of Mr Mandelson was last night being seen as an indicator of Tony Blair's real concern that the image of the Labour Government would sures and still more sacked

help the miners' cause, but the Whitehall consensus is that coal until well after 2000. short of renditionalisation or avy subsidy, there is pitiful lit-

tle that can be done. Opening the debate with enormous dignity, Paddy Tipping - who serves as Parliamentary Private Secretary to Jack Straw, Home Secretary, a job that now demands complete loyalty to the Government line recognised that there was

very limited scope for Government intervention.

But he warned that, even with a deal struck yesterday between National Power and RJB, the country's main coal mining company, redundancies would follow and up to ten pits could close if production was halved to 15 million tonnes, as forecast.

Pushing the limits of his restricted freedom, Mr Tipping asked Mr Battle to tell the mining communities "more clearly, more loudly" what was being done; he urged the Minister to get the owners and the

He implicitly criticised the lack of a strategic energy policy. saying: "People won't invest in coal or generation unless they know what the Government policy is. I have to say that there's confusion around this at state your position very clear-

Mr Tipping also urged the minister: "Now is the time to step off the gas" - a direct attack on the new Government's approval for gas-fired power stations, which displace coal-fired generation. "At the end of the day it is gas generation that is off the face of the UK," he said.

Mr Battle, who largely addressed the MPs behind him, rather than the House as a whole, said Labour had received an "horrendous legacy" from the Tories. There was no question of subsidy for RJB, and be damaged by further pit clo-formal complaints had been lodged with the European Commission about state aid It is known that Cabinet subsidies for coal in Germany members, Recluding John and Spain. But even if a stop was Prescott, have been trying to put on further gas-fired stations, there would be no benefit for

> Clearly delighted by the rewent to town. Tony Baldry, a former energy minister, pointed out that Robin Cook, now Foreign Secretary, had come out with a six-point plan for coalwhen he was Opposition spokesman which had included a moratorium on gas-fired power stations.



Brown accepts acclaim

Gordon Brown (right), the Chancellor of the Exchequer, was named Parliamentarian of the Year yesterday, and former prime minister Lord Callaghan Elder Statesman of the Year. At the Spectator magazine and Highland Park Scotch Whisky awards, Mr Brown said: "I can genuinely say I am very grateful I am grateful to have survived these last 10 years at all."

John Redwood, Tory trade and industry spokesman, was Questioner of the Year; Backbencher of the Year was Quentin Davies, Tory MP for Grantham and Stamford; and Margaret, Countess of Mar, was Peer of the Year for instigating an inquiry into Gulf War chemicals and the health of the armed forces.

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Compromise PR system urged by **Lib-Dems**

A compromise form of proportional representation for Westminster elections is suggested by a senior Liberal Democrat in today's Independent.

The deal offered by Robert Macleman, the party's President, could bring a solution to a seemingly intractable dispute between the party and the Government over how the voting system could be changed.

With the announcement of an Electoral Commission - possibly chaired by the Liberal Democrat Lord Jenkins - imminent, senior figures in both parties have been looking for a

reforms

way forward. Although the two parties agreed before the general election to set up a commission on voting reforms for Westminster, they have not been able to agree on what type of reforms

there could be. While the Liberal Democrats have insisted on a proportional, single transferable vote system, senior members of the Government, including the Prime Minister and the Home Secretary, Jack Straw, have not been convinced. They have suggested they would prefer an alternative vote system, which is not proportional and which might in fact give Labour more seats despite the fact that it is already over-represented in

Now, Mr Maclennan has suggested a compromise which could combine elements of the

two systems. The STV system is used in Ireland, and allows MPs to be selected proportionally in large constituencies with several



the gap with Labour

members: Under AV, which is used in Australia, there is still one MP per constituency, but voters list candidates on the ballot paper in order of preference. The losers can then have their votes redistributed until someone has more than 50 per cent of the vote.

"It is the principles behind our preferred system to which we are ultimately attached: a proportional national out-turn, wider voter choice and, preferably, the attachment of elected members to geographical constituencies," Mr Maclennan writes. The scheme was backed in a recent television interview by Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader.

The joint commission, chaired by Mr Maclennan with Robin Cook before the election, agreed that a commission would consider alternatives to the first-past-the-post system.

--- Fran Abrams, Political Correspondent Comment, page 21 job

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He added that the panel, led by Assu Koffi Amega of Togo, could meet President Laurent Kabila today.

The government and the UN team were to agree later yesterday on a date

Children hunger for peace in Iraq crisis

dren suffer from chronic malnutrition, despite a UN programme that allows Iraq to import limited supplies of food and medicine, Unicef said yesterday. It said the health of Irag's children had dramatically deteriorated since the UN decided in 1991 to use sanctions to force President Saddam Hussein to give up his weapons of mass destruction.

"It is clear children are bearing the brunt of the ... economic hardship," said Philippe Heffinck, Unicel's representative in Baghdad. "They must be protected from

the impact of sanctions." Inspectors continued to search vesterday for President Saddam Hussein's suspected arsenal of biological and chemical weapons. Richard Butler, head of the UN inspection mission in Iraq, said he suspected President Saddam was

Nearly 1 million Iraqi chil- hiding 200 tonnes of VX gas, which he described as "seven times more potent" than the sarin gas that a Japanese cult used in its 1995 attack on the tolerate any more farces by in-Tokyo underground, which spection teams." killed 12 people.

"Why would you subject your whole people to an awful process of sanctions just to have stuff like this?" Mr Butler said in a US television interview. "Why would you forgo \$100bn (£62bn) worth of oil revenue for this?" Amer al-Saadi, an adviser to the Iraqi leader, said the accusations that Iraq had tonnes of VX were "an ex-

The US Defense Secretary. William Cohen, said President Saddam must not be allowed to exempt his palaces from

Iraq claims it has complied fully and that the US is manipulating the inspection programme to keep sanctions in

place as long as Saddam Hussein remains president. The government al-Jumhouriya newspaper said "Iraq will not

In Paris, a foreign ministry spokesman said France called on all sides ... to show restraint and moderation" in the showdown over inspections.

The US military commander in the Gulf region said America's allies there had told him they wanted "no more pinpricks" against President Saddam should the crisis slide into military conflict. "If there is a requirement to respond, we ought to do it in a serious way,' General Anthony Zinni said.

Mr Cohen said any attack on Iraq by US planes and ships massed in the Gulf would be reserved "only as a last option" by President Bill Clinton in consultation with Washington's



- AP, Baghdad Standoff: A British soldier taking part in manoeuvres in Kuwait yesterday that also involved US, Italian and Kuwaiti forces

to be readmitted to the fold

The President of the United Arab Emirates

yesterday made a move for Arab states to

readmit Iraq to their ranks. It is another in-

dication that the solidity of the coalition

which opposed Baghdad in the 1991 Gulf

Sheikh Zaid bin Sultan al-Nahayan said

President Saddam Hussein had committed

mistakes out of greed and should be for-

given. "Saddam Hussein is not stronger than

others and what emanated from him was

a result of greed not only in Kuwait but in

the whole Gulf," he told Egyptian editors

mans young and old, and if greed had dom-

inated the Iraqi president's mind, the Gulf

is now well and it is Saddam and his peo-

ple who are suffering. Let's tell this man

that you have erred towards us ... but we

now tell you welcome back as a faithful

Sheikh Zaid's comments were the most

explicit call yet to rehabilitate the Iraqi leader. In the past, he has called for Iraq

to be forgiven without mentioning President

brother'.

Saddam by name.

"But greed is part of the nature of hu-

at the end of a two-day visit to Cairo.

Former US Gulf war ally pleads for Saddam

tion that drove Iraqi troops out of Kuwait

in 1991. But the Gulf state has since led a

campaign to bring Iraq back into the Arab

fold. "The Iraqi people were not at fault.

The one at fault is Saddam and I believe

that we should be forgiving with the Iraqi

president so he could return to the Arab

He also accused Iran of "trickery", say-

ing Tehran was offering nothing in its bid

to improve ties with Gulf Arabs. He said

the UAE was not ready to give up an inch

of territory on three disputed Gulf islands

controlled by Iran. Asked about Iran's at-

tempts at rapprochement with Gulf Arab

states, the UAE leader said: "Iran talks with-

■ The trial opened in Qatar of 110 people

charged with trying to overthrow the ruler

of the Gulf Arab state, which has accused

als except for a Sri Lankan, a Saudi and a

Bahraini, were brought under heavy guard

to a packed courtroom in Doha, the capital. Of the 110 people on trial, 40 are at

large, including two Egyptians and one Tan-

Seventy defendants, all Qatari nation-

Egypt of being behind the plot.

family," Sheikh Zaid added.

out offering anything.

PLAIN PAPER FAX TalkTime® MINUTES BT CORDLESS TELEPHONE WITH DIGITAL ANSWERING MACHINE CORDLESS TELEPHONE

Ayatollah turns fire on Iran's dissidents Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali

The UAE was part of the US-led coalizanian. They will be tried in absentia.

Khamenei, yesterday blasted dissidents who have questioned his authority as "enemy agents" and said they would be prosecuted with the full force of the law. cluding the treatment of political prisoners.

Speaking out for the first time in the row, Khamenci urged Iranians to refrain from taking the law into their own hands and to cease demonstrations denouncing the most prominent dissident, Ayatollah Hossein Ali Montazeri.

"If what they [dissidents] have done is illegal, which it is, if it is treason against the people, which it is - then executive and iudicial officials should carry out their duty against these individuals ... "Khamenei said in a speech carried on state radio and television. "And I am informed that they are going to carry it out and that there will be no laxity. I ask everyone to stop the marches. Of course speakers and writers should continue to clear up the people's minds," Khamenei said. "I urge everyone not to commit any illegal acts ... "

Khamenei was apparently referring to attacks last week by demonstrators on the offices of Montageri and another prominent critic, Ayatollah Ahmad Azari Qomi, in the Shi'ite Moslem holy city of Qom, 75 miles south of Tehran. Montazeri has questioned Khamenei's qualification to become the spiritual guide of all the world's Shi'ite Moslems in addition to being Iran's supreme political leader.

The controversy crupted last week into one of Iran's most violent demonstrations in recent years. Police used tear gas to disperse pro-Khamenei demonstrators in

prominent dissident since founder of the

revolution, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, dismissed him as his designated successor shortly before his death in 1989. Montazeri had criticised government policies in-

Some moderate newspapers have said in-fighting and daily marches could mar Iran's hosting of a summit of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference next

Speaking to members of the volunteer Basij militia, Khamenei said Iran's enemies and foreign media had tried to portray the row as a fully-fledged factional dispute, but reiterated that Iranian officials were united despite some differences.

He added that the dissidents "were enemy agents, even though they might not be conscious of it". But he urged franians not to lose perspective of Iran's real enemies. "You should get to know who the enemy is. World arrogance is the enemy,

America is the enemy, the Zionists are the enemy," Khamenei said. He praised moderate President Mohammad Khatami for dissipating rumours of a split over power-sharing by clearly stick-

ing to the law. The debate over Khamenei's

nowers has sharpened since Khatami de-

feated conservative candidates backed by the clerical establishment in May polls. Under Iran's constitution, the supreme leader is the top state authority. He has absolute power over all government institutions.

Criticism of Khamenei's powers has also come from left-wing Islamists close to Khatami, and a liberal Muslim opposition group. The new president has repeatedly pledged allegiance to the supreme leader and refused to be drawn into the debate.

State funeral for dictator Banda

Kamuzu Banda, the former president of Malawi, who died on Tuesday, will receive a state funeral honouring him as the nation's founding father. despite 30 years of brutal dictatorship. He died in a South African hospital of respiratory failure from pneumonia. Though his official birthday was given as 14 May, 1906, long before birth records were kept in the former British colony of Nyasaland, he was believed to be in his late 90s. The death certificate put his age at 99.

President Bakili Muluzi's government announced a mourning period until 3 December, when Banda will be given a state funeral in Lilongwe with full military honours. The honours for Banda, in spite of his hated rule, showed that Mr Muluzi wanted to give Malawians a chance to pay last respects to the man who led the country for most of their lives.

Obituary, page 22

Leakey party allowed to run

The Kenyan government registered the opposition Safina party of the conservationist Richard Leakey, but the party said it was undecided about fielding candidates in the general election on 29 December.

The decision to register Safina adds a further element to calculations on opposition electoral strength. President Daniel arap Moi, in power since 1978, is favourite to win a final term against candidates divided along eth-

nic and personal lines. The strength of Safina, which said it provided the best forum for uniting Kenya's opposition when it first applied for registration in 1995, remains untested.

Congo move on massacre inquiry

Facing a United Nations ultimatum to co-operate with a massacre investigation team, a Congo-Zaire official insisted that the mission already had full access to the country.

"No one is putting the brakes on your mission," Etienne-Richard Mbaya, minister of reconstruction and emergency planning, told the team. "Your mission can begin today. You can go where you want."

to visit the sites of reported massacres.

On Tuesday the UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, threatened to withdraw the team within 48 hours because Congo officials repeatedly barred the team from certain areas

Montazeri, 75, has been Iran's most Dam-busting fish can spawn freely In a historic decision that has cheered en-There are more than 500 other dams up

vironmentalists across the nation, the renew the licence of a large river dam in of campaigns by environmentalists. Maine and ordered it to be destroyed to make way for spawning fish.

industry nation-wide could be considerable. of spawning grounds.

for relicensing in the US; many are in the United States government has refused to Pacific North-west and have been objects

The 900-foot-long Edwards Dam, outside the city of Augusta, in southern It marks the first time in US history that Maine, is 160 years old. The Federal Enfederal authorities have opted to disman- ergy Regulatory Commission ruled that it the a functioning hydro-electric dam in should be removed to open a 19-mile stretch favour of returning rivers to species of fish. of the Kennebee River for salmon, bass and The implications for the hydro-electric sturgeon entering from the ocean in search

"I think people are beginning to realise that a dam is not necessarily a permanent feature of the landscape," commented Alexander Hoar, a director at the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

The owners of the dam, which provides only 1 percent of Maine's electricity supply, have one year to come forward with a plan for the structure's demolition. However, they are almost certain to appeal against the order.

David Usborne, New York



لفكذا من الاحل

17/PACIFIC RIFT

Fall from miracle to meltdown leaves Clinton facing the prospect of a new global divide

Time was when the United States thwart the whole US project for an Ameradvantage of weaker regional competition feared they would fall to

Communism. Now, the newly rich 'Tiger' economies of Asia could become 'dominoes' once again as worried investors withdraw their money and threaten them one by one with bankruptcy This new domino effect could prove every bit as divisive as the last and shatter some American dreams to

Five years ago, Bill Clinton became the first US president to attend the annual conference of the 18 economies known collectively as Apec - the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation grouping. Describing them as economies rather than nations got around the delicate problem of China's objections to Taiwan being treated as a sovereign country and the imminent reversion of Hong Kong to China.

But it also highlighted the primacy of economics over politics in a region where politics can be a sensitive subject. Unlike the European Union, Apec - formed in 1989 - set itself no longer-term political objective and stuck faithfully, if vaguely, to its brief of economic co-operation. Now, economics could prove its downfall.

This year, by coincidence, the summit was held in Vancouver, barely 50 miles into Canada from the US city of Seattle where President Clinton had presented the United States as a Pacific power and natural leader of the fearsomely dynamic "Pacific Rim". But the mood was quite different. Then, Mr Clinton had looked forward with enthusiasim to a "Pacific century", in which Asian dynamism would provide the engine for a new wave of global prosperity. This week, as his Secretary of State put it, rather more dramatically perhaps than Mr Clinton might have liked, there were fears that the "Asian miracle" could become an "Asian meltdown".

Meltdown, probably, will be avoided. The United States has helped to arrange a series of IMF rescue packages that could serve the duel purpose of staving off bankruptcy in places as far apart as Indonesia and South Korea, and forcing economic and financial restructuring measures that would be very much to US tastes.

This week's Apec summit, however, saw APEC members that could eventually entate its investment in Asia to take ton may yet have to reckon with.

Legister card

្រួននេះ ស្ថិតិ ស៊ី ស៊ី ស៊ី

in freely

US ambitions to lead the grouping were challenged by Asian calls for recognition of their special identity that cast doubt on the whole concept of the Pacific Rim as a geographic and economic entity. As if this was not enough, there were hints that a battle of ideology could soon be joined that was universally thought to have ended with the collapse of communism.

President Clinton went to Vancouver intent on preaching that the way out of the financial instability that has beset Asia's "Tiger" economies in recent months lay through freer markets and sound national economic management. But he hit two snags. Deep-down, not all APEC countries accepted that IMF-style reforms offered a remedy for their problems. Some even more flexible and consensus oriented than the fiscal rigour demanded by the IMF.

Although the US ensured that this suggestion came to nothing, Mr Clinton's market and the IMF were not what they

BY MARY DEJEVSKY

might have been. His free trade credentials were damaged by the refusal of Congress to give him "fast-track" authority to negotiate international trade treaties. And even as he recommended troubled Asian countries to approach the IMF, the US was refusing - Congress again - to pay a \$3.5bn contribution to the Fund.

Worse, the countries experiencing the most acute economic difficulties - Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines, South Korea were the ones that followed the US model the most closely and had tied their currencies to the dollar. China, with an economy furthest from US practices in every respect, said with wry satisfaction that it was unaffected by the turmoil among its neighbours and expected to remain so.

countries, whose political standing - like that of Japan - derived largely from their economic strength, could diminish not only their influence in the region, but also that of the United States. If the US econ-

ican-style economic regime in the Pacific. from Japan and South Korea, but this holds risks. It could force it to readjust its military priorities in the region; it could also accentuate the differences - political, economic and geographical - between North America, South America and Asia - the very differences that the Pacific Rim concept was supposed to blur.

No less difficult for the US are the questions that the Asian Tigers' problems raise about free-market capitalism and Westernstyle economic management. Korea, along with Thailand, has insisted that its current problems originated with an indisciplined private sector that over-borrowed and from a poorly regulated financial sector that left the government exposed.

Risk-taking in the private sector, however, lies at the heart of a free market. Takmooted an "Asian solution" that would be en to their logical conclusion, the complaints of South Korea and others lead to the position articulated most forcefully at Vancouver by the Malaysian prime minister, Mahathir Mohamad, Dr Mahathir, qualifications as an advocate for the free . who has long propounded a theory of "Asian values" - according to which Asians are deemed to value Western-style human rights less highly than government-fostered stability and economic growth - told business leaders that since the fall of communism, the pendulum was "in danger of swinging too far and making market forces such an article of faith that anything done in its name cannot be questioned".

Pursuing the crusade he launched after Malaysia fell victim to currency speculators earlier this year, he called for tough crossborder regulation of capital transfers and a new partnership between the private sector and governments. And in a tirade that provided a worthy follow-up to European complaints about unwarranted American 'economic triumphalism" at the Group of Seven summit this summer, Dr Mahathir said that suffering caused by recent South-East Asian currency devaluations was greater by far than the suffering caused by corruption and poverty before.

Attacking the power of unbridled markets, he said: "As much as government can become corrupt when invested with absolute power, markets also can become corrupt when equally absolutely powerful. We The weakening of these US-orientated see the effect of that absolute power today, the impoverishment and misery of millions of people and their eventual slavery."

Dr Mahathir is often dismissed as a maverick. But with the wreckage of free markets strewn across Asia and still spreading. cracks opening up between groups of omy continues to flourish, it could reori- his views have a following that Washing-



Waving or drowning? This stock market trader in Tokyo – and his fellows in 'Tiger' countries such as Malaysia and Photograph: AP South Korea - have signalled both a financial and political problem for America

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The Royal Opera - 2 for I ticket offer - Save up to £75

Independent on Sunday are giving you the opportunity to experience the opera. In association with The Royal Opera we are offering you 2 tickets for the price of I to the Autumn and Winter 1997/98 season. You can choose to see any of three productions - The Merry Widow, The Barber of Seville and Paul Bunyan all showing at the Shaftesbury Theatre.

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For each 2 for 1 ticket application simply collect 3 tokens from the Independent and Independent on Sunday (tokens will be printed every day until Friday 28 November) and telephone The Royal Opera House box office on either 0171 304 4000 or 0171 379 5399 (lines are open between 10am and 7pm)identifying yourself as an Independent reader. If paying by credit card you will be asked to hand in your tokens when you collect your tickets. If paying by cheque please enclose your three tokens (you will be advised of the address when booking). You may apply twice for the offer, collect-

Paul Bunyan

ing 3 tokens per application.

Offer available 10 II I3 I5 I7 December Ticket Prices: £48.50, £39,

£36, £32, £18.50 Paul Bunyan is an American folk hero of gigantic height



Photograph: Laurie Lewis

Rossini's music defines all of

them without caricature and

makes them available to any

Offer available 31 December

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Like The Barber of Seville,

The Merry Widow is a first.

Most operettas are about sex

and money, but few as

provocatively as Lebar's. The

story takes place in embassy

circles in turn of the century

Paris. It discusses the affairs of

a romantic little princedom fit

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Rurhania in The Prisoner of

Zenda (book and operetta

are near contemporaries). Its

music is awash with gorgeous

tunes - and wonderful dances

evoking middle-European

folklore, written with the skill

of a Richard Strauss or Puccini

(more contemporaries). The

I 2 3 5 6 7 8 9 10 January

The Merry

Widow

£56, £51, £30.

who became the greatest lumberjack in history, or so legend says. His work sites, and his fights, created geographical wonders like the Grand Canyon and the Rockies.

The Merry Widow

Bunyan's adventures are an allegory of the development of virgin North America in the pioneer days.

The Barber of Seville

Offer available on 7 10 12 14 February Ticket prices: £75, £66, £62, £57, £33.

The Barber of Seville is the first modern comic opera-Rossini was the star composer of an era when opera moved out of aristocratic circles into boulevard theatres. . He believed his audiences would laugh at what they could recognise.

In this opera, Rossini has all the classic characters from commedia dell'arte; who have been around from Shakespeare to television sitcom. very word 'operetta' means es-

But what's best about the Widow is its realism. Its heroine has been married before for all the worst reasons - on the rebound from an unhappy affair, and for money. Its hero met the heroine before and rejected her for all the worst reasons - family pressure, and money - and then went off on a seriously naughty bender in Paris. He loves her, but can't bring himself to say it. Meanwhile, everyone else in sight is bending over backwards to be unfaithful. It's realistic, it's funny and it's sad. This perfect theatrical combination gave Lehar a monster hit in Vienna. Paris. London and New

Terms and Conditions Ro qualify for the offer applicants must collect three differently num-bered tokens. Tokens are published every day between November 22 every day between Noven and November 28. Only iber 28. Only the tokens and November 28. Only the tokens printed in The Independent and In-dependent on Sunday are valid. tocopies or any other reprodu tions will not be accepted. The offer is for 2 tickets for the price of 1 for each application. Each set of three tokens collected allows you to take advantage of the 2 for 1 offer. The free ticket may only have a val-ue equal to or less than the pur-chased ticket. This offer is only valid for the three productions men tioned above. The Royal Opera House standard terms and conditions of purchase apply to this offer. The offer is subject to availability. No cash afternitives will be accepted. The promoters are The Inde-pendent and The Royal Opera House.



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The Mil

That was how it was for Serena Mackesy. For Tony Blair – and thousands of other M People fans - it could be one night in Wembley, And tonight's the night,

Despite the fact that the point of pop music, like any other profit-making business, is to shift as many units as possible, the taint of commercialism is have been championing the use of real instruments and performance through the "Who Sings? Who Cares?" dance scene years, but there is one word with which they remain synonymous: Peugeot.

Not that they mind that much. The James Terminator Cameron-directed ad that "Search for the Hero" accompanied (or was it the other way round?) was one of their smartest career moves. As Heather Small, the pint-sized soul diva whose voice has probably inspired more shouting on more dance floors than any other over the past six years, says, "It's the fact that the Peugeot ad was so successful that's the galling thing. But that's why you can't knock it."

"The first time it showed was during News at Ten on a Friday night, three minutes long," says Mike Pickering, the band's 41- devotees. Many had obviously

ing, 'this is one of the best pop videos we've ever done'. We could never have got James Cameron for a video; they spent something like \$3m. And then it got resurrected because the one with Kim Basinger was so awful; all the dealers kept telling them to put ours back on. We got a few holidays out of that."

Plus mega-sales, of course. Bizarre Fruit, the album from two-and-half years. Fresco, hard to scrub off. M People may released on 13 October, is selling like hot cakes; "Fantasy Island", the single released on Monday, notched up advance orders of 64,000, and tonight M People hit Wembley in an 18date arena tour for which 200,000 tickets have been sold. The Blairs are going to Wembley, apparently, darlings.

They are unlikely to go away disappointed; M People know how to put on a good show, and the spread of their audiences is remarkable. At Cardiff on Monday, the 7,000-strong crowd ranged from school children to pensioners. Gaggles of twentysomething women wore their hair piled up in imitation of Small and men with trimmed beards and serious tonsures hugged plastic pint glasses to their chests. Everyone was there: cool kids and their grannies, people who dress to

and nuts

honeycomb

vanilla and caramel

subdued sweet flavour

ur Sherry Wood Finish is a subtle variation of the classic

Glenmorangie. It's final maturation period is spent in

Sherry casks to produce its light gold colour and an astonishing

blend of aromas. It is one of a range of Glemmorangic special

GLENMORANGIE WOOD FINISHES

For those who nose.

wood finishes including Port and Madeira.

with a layer of

in the background

Full bodied, chen and creamy, with a

ar the outset and

a light and dry

followed after a moment by

year-old Svengali. "I kept think- never been near the dance scene from which the band originated, but they were dancing their support-hose off on Monday. Egged on by the performers. The four-piece -Pickering, Small, Shovell and classically trained guitarist/keyboardist Paul Heard - kept the house rocking with the help of seven other musicians. "One Night in Heaven" appeared sixth in line and the election which "Hero" came, charted for night theme tune, "Moving On Up", closed the set. "Search for the Hero" reduced the matron behind me to screams of delight, while the entire audience sang along, each wrapped in a conviction that the lyrics applied uniquely to themselves.

> Key to it all was Small, who. despite a reputation for shyness and an aversion to self-publicity, stalked the stage like a tiger in a burr-patch, while Pickering performed Supremeslike hand and hip movements by his microphone. Small is energetic, fierce and blessed with a voice straight from the darker recesses of the soul. Her volume, poise and control are hypnotic. Sod the Spicies; if you want your daughter to have a good role model, start here.

Now, 32, Small paid her dues with the rated soul combo Hot!House before becoming one of Mike's people (that's what the "M" stands for) in match their pit-bulls, wine bar 1991. Pickering, 41, has a music business pedigree that's hard to knock - spinning dance discs at the Hacienda in the glory days of Manchester, heading house outfits Quando Quango and T-Coy, A&R-ing for Factory Records and producing the Happy Mondays, Hardly an appearance from nowhere. And they are adept at managing themselves, playing the market, catching the wave of New Labour optimism and riding it all the way to shore.

Touring, though, is both strain and pleasure. Small, par-



M-People's Heather Small and Mike Pickering, catching the wave of New Labour ticularly, suffers badly from optimism and riding it (by Peugeot) all the way to the shore Photograph: Tom Pilston

nerves before a show: "Going out on stage takes up a lot of my day. I have a routine, and I have to take time to be by myself to gear myself up. You have to focus, because however I wake up at 8.30am, come showtime I have to transcend those feelings and enjoy the show. If it's a good show," she adds, "I get an adrenalin rush." Pickering laughs. "You're like a woman possessed when you get out there. Her muscles ripple. She frightens me." Small cackles; for a tiny women, her laugh could demolish walls.

She is vegan, teetotal, nonsmoking - mostly for the sake of preserving that voice - and, with the exception of Shoveli, who raises hell for all of them, all are more into their families than the party circuit. Pickering has a daughter at home and another on the way; James, Small's eight-month-old son by the Rugby star Shaun Edwards, is on tour with them. It's working out well. Small is amazingly cool about the whole thing, and Pickering is an enthusiastic extended family member. "It's great having James. It kind of makes up for missing my daughter, you know: you can have a great play with him. He gouges your eyes out and grabs on to your ears. He has got certain traits of his father you have to watch for. He'll be biting your nose off soon."

I hate showbiz parties," says Pickering, "really hate them. I just think, well, I don't have to be your friend just because we're in the same business, and I find everyone is totally false at these parties, well, most people. We usually go and stand in a corner and have a laugh, and the odd person of the same nature will come and stand with us." They confess to enjoying the recent Downing Street party where they met Mike Leigh, a great hero, and got to see the rest of the house.

home in Maida Vale, occasionally popping down to Ladbroke Grove, where she grew up: "They're really nice to me there. They've seen my career, and they rejust glad that a local girl's made good. It's very, very busy, you know, but it's nice to go there and visit." If there's one thing they

hate more than showbiz parties, it's the critics. "Their attitude didn't really change when we got the Peugeot ad; they hated us all the time. There are exceptions, but the more popular we got the more they disliked us," says Pickering the next day in the hotel, hung over from postgig partying but still fresh from a heavy workout in the gym. The band have been called manufactured, cynical, mainstream elevator music, "calculated soul

charlatans". "Musicians in Britain, every one of them, are all in despair about the critics. A lot of them don't even come and see us play live," says Small. This must be a sharp thorn in the side of someone who can match live version with the recorded one every day of the week. "Our inspiration comes from people like James Brown," says Pickering. "All the old soul, artists, the dance acts, used to play live; I used to go and see them all. At the moment there are a lot of people going around with DATs, [Digital Audio Tapes] even at lot of the big shows. Sometimes it's necessary, of course. The Spice Girls have a 40-track one at the back with all their vocals on, and they quickly fade them out so they can go 'thank you'.

"Td find it soul-destroying to go out there and know that night after night it's going to be exactly the same," Heather continues. "There can be times on stage when all the musicians are in synch, and you do something that is so magical, and the audience realise it, and you realise it, and you're all in on it, and Heather generally sticks to that's what you aim for."

My lovely husband is a monster behind the wheel



What is it about men and cars? Level-headed, kindly men can turn into maniacs when they get behind a wheel. I recently drove with one of the calmest, sweetest men in the world, and found myself quietly resolving, between praying to God for deliverance, that if I ever arrived home in one piece I would finally ring up my solicitor and

make my will. Just in case. Tailgating, flashing their lights at cars who won't move over, overtaking on hills ("I just know that nothing's coming"), parking at bus-stops, backing down one-way streets if not actually driving down them, doing spectacular Uturns on motorways - I've suffered all of these at the hands

down to stupidity and childishness, and also to account for their inability to ask the way as a sign of an almost pathological weakness when it comes to asking for help. But I think it's about innate masculinity. These days men may help with the washing-up, put the rubbish out, discuss their feelings, and even cry, but when it comes to cars they feel the call of the wild: the hunter comes out in them, and you can no more stop it than you can stop the cosiest, fattest, purri-

est old cat chasing after birds. The inability to ask for help is not a weakness in that it's a fear of dependence; rather, it's a great desire for independence. A man would no whether they look OK.

It's terribly easy to put it all more ask a local the way, than a primitive hunter would ask his mate which way the deer went. They have to find out for themselves. They only feel happy if they can do it alone; they like to orientate themselves with maps and an innate sense of direction (men are generally meant to have a better sense of direction than women). And perhaps they should be admired for these qualities, rather than condemned.

There are lots of things that women do that men can't understand. They traditionally spend ages getting dressed, fussing about their hair, getting anxious about the size of their thighs, asking nervously

Men often find this preoc- more in control and less angry. cupation quite extraordinary, and, sometimes, maddening. But it's a sign of femininity that they go along with fairly tolerantly, despite the fact that it's a mystery to them.

Hannab and her husband should work out the routes long before they get into the car.

If they are visiting a stately bome, Hannah should ring up the house first and find out exactly where it is. She should be armed with full instructions how to get there - and from every direction - so that she can become her husband's navigator and they can work as a team. She should contribute information - such as how many miles it is to the next village all of which will make him feel

If she tends to confuse left with right, she should write a little L on her left thumb and an R on her right so that she never gets her directions wrong. The more trust her husband can put in his navigator, the less likely he is to drive too fast. They should leave plenty of time for a journey, to take any urgency

out of it. And if it reassures Hannah, she will know from our letters that she's not alone. Even royalty is not immune. One of the Queen's recent biographers quoted an eyewitness account of Prince Philip's threat to put his wife out of the car if she once more voiced her fears that he was driving

WHAT READERS SAY

This could be me I read your "next week's dilemma" of 20 November rather expecting to see my wife's

name at the end of it! I cannot explain why I change so much just by getting behind the wheel of a car. This coming Sunday we have to travel to the other side of London to collect some furniture and I will, as before, set off determined not to get annoyed with other drivers, or Lynda's comments such as "next left, no right, no, left ... I think".

Lynda and I really enjoy traveiling to places I know the

I can assure Hannah that she is not alone - and if she sees a red Fiat Punto indicating left, then right, then left again, she'll know it's us. David Buck Woodford Bridge, Essex

My husband changed L too, have the most wonderful husband who has always been generous and considerate, kind and loving - until he got behind the wheel of a car, when he used to become an ag-

gressive man who terrified us, and whom the children and I hardly recognised. Going anywhere was a nightmare, when all our stomachs turned over, The very thought of his driving took all the pleasure out of going on holiday - and it went on for years. We tried reasoning, ding, the lot - but failed to make him understand how we

I finally had enough, and bought my own car, after which my mother, children, even friends always wanted to go with my car and not his; but he still couldn't understand why we were so distressed, although he would not have dreamt of distressing us in any other way.

Then I was very ill and almost died, and he changed completely and is now the most careful and considerate of drivers. It took a frightening experience and something very big to change him.

I have been very lucky; usually, I'm sure, you're on to a loser trying to change this type of driver. M Bowen Haydon Bridge

of knowing that by not using Why not go by train? What earthly point is there in your car you will be contributing less to the damaging embarking on a motoring jolly if your husband is going to effects of pollution on these ruin the day with his bad temhistoric buildings that you enper and potentially fatal attacks joy visiting at weekends. of road rage? Next time, Han-Julia Sellers nah, insist that you both trav-

nice, intelligent, funny and He's just a male driver ... kind your husband may be, he I believe that what you are deis a potential danger to himself scribing here in not necessariand, more important, to you ly a dark side of your husband's and other road users. In addiotherwise gentle character, but tion, you will have the bonus simply a facet of many male

NEXT WEEK'S DILEMMA

My boyfriend and I have been going out together for five years and he has now asked me to give up my flat and live with him. It's an obvious progression in our relationship, but for some reason I feel rather alarmed by it. I often stay over at his flat and he stays at mine, but living together

seems such a big move. It's

not as if he's asked me to

marry him - we obviously

will someday, I feel - so I

don't know why I feet in-

el by train or coach. However

stinctive trepidation at the idea. *Ilse* Letters are welcome, and everyone who has a suggestion quoted will be sent a bouquet from Interflora Send your personal experiences or comments to me at the features department, The Independent', I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL (fax 0171-293 2182) by Tuesday morning. And if you have a dilemma of your own that you would like to share. please let me know.

personalities all round the hair, make-up etc. This appears country. By saying that he is intelligent and has never had an accident, you imply that he is probably quite a good driver. If one is allowed to be sexist here, a car is probably, after his family and house, a man's most prized possession, and how he

drives it is extremely important. Many men have immense pride in their ability to drive well. To ask a pedestrian for advice is, in his eyes, admitting defeat, and compromising his skills as a superior driver. With regard to being bad tempered with other drivers, this is not road rage, but merely extreme frustration at their not doing what he would do, and holding everyone up in the process. Driving is without doubt a stressful business, and your husband obviously feels it

more keenly than some. My suggestion is that you try to play relaxing music in the car, and talk about things other than the journey. I cannot draw any parallels with female habits and behaviour, but men are equally surprised at the amount of stress from which a woman suffers over her

to a man pointless and stupid, as the driving stress appears to a woman. We are all made up differently, and if, all the rest of the time he is kind and gentie, there is nothing really abnormal. Simon Blackburn

Bungay, Suffolk

Confront your husband

Hannah should show her husband the letter she sent to Virginia and then state quite simply that she will refuse to go out with him in the car as long as he behaves in the way she describes. When friends and relations ask questions because she refuses to let him drive her, she should tell them the truth. I expect that he will

find that embarrassing. I believe that psychologists regard such masculine behaviour as evidence of immaturity and at the root of the modern phenomenon called road rage. Like many women, I regard such behaviour as puerile and would refuse to pander to such tantrums.

Mrs Heward Horncastle, Lincolnshire

لفكذا من الاحل

19/ARCHITECTURE

The Millennium comes to Somerset House

Chris Smith, the culture secretary, yesterday handed over the lease for Somerset House to the charity charged with restoring the former London records office for births, deaths and marriages to its 18thcentury glory.

Stephen Goodwin, Heritage Correspondent, toured the River Terrace - shut off for 150 years and the vaulted rooms intended to house some fabulous collections.

In a near-Dickensian scene, a dozen or so inquirers - or perhaps gold diggers - are standing at desks, leafing through registers of wills. This is the Seamen's Hall, the room where, in Nelson's day, sea captains would go and wait for their commissions. The desks and fusty ledgers were later arrivals and will soon be gone as the Hall and the whole of Somerset House's south side is transformed.

With the aid of a £10m grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, announced yesterday, Somerset House is to be restored and large parts of it opened to the public. Lying between the Strand and the Thames, it is one of the most important 18th century public buildings in London, yet its vast quadrangular Great Court and grand facades have remained a virtual secret.

Sir Tim Sainsbury, chairman of Somerset House Ltd, the charity established to take over responsibility for the building from the Government, described the Great Court as "the a home on the south side. finest open air living room in London". In a £15m redevelopment programme the Trust intends to open routes through Somerset House linking Covent Garden and the South Bank, bring open-air theatre and other entertainments to the Great the Embankment building, Court and install three major which in George III's time collections in vaults, where the nation's wills were stored.

Somerset House is the masterpiece of George III's architectural adviser, Sir William Chambers. His monumental building replaced a palace which from the time of James I had been home to successive royal dowagers. Queen Charlotte refused to live there and the King had it demolished to make way for government offices, mainly for tax collectors and the Navy.

The Inland Revenue are still there, and will pay rent of £2m a year for their offices in the east and west wings. But the taxmen's cars, along with those of Lord Chancellor's staff, will be cleared from the Great Court by next summer.

For the architects, Peter Inskip and Peter Jenkins, the challenge is to take an abused 18th century Grade I listed building alongside a dirty, noisy six-lane highway, interpret its space and install modern services appropriate to displaying and conserving valuable art collections.

Air conditioning is crucial. The centrepiece will be the £75m collection of silver, gold, micro-mosaics and marble inlays and gold boxes given to the nation by Arthur Gilbert, a British-born resident of California. Ranging from Ancient Rome to the Great Exhibition of 1851, many of the pieces once belong to popes, kings, queens and grand dukes. Gold boxes, such as the fabulous diamondencrusted rococo boxes made for Frederick the Great, are set with precious stones.

Also bound for the south wing are the 800 works of Wernher Collection from Luton Hoo in Bedfordshire, including medieval ivories and Renaissance bronzes. The Courtauld Institute of Art's gallery in the north wing of Somerset House will reopen next autumn after a £2.5m restoration programme. However it will still be short of space and eventually 70 famous Impressionist and Post-Impressionist pictures could be found Along with a car-free Great

Court, one of the most exciting prospects will be the opening to. the public of 480-foot Terrace Walk - painted by Canaletto overlooking the Thames. Beneath its dismal asphalt roof is stood out into the river. The building became landlocked with Sir Joseph Bazalgette's great engineering works along the Embankment, but the arched Water Gate and adjacent barge houses are still there in the building, awaiting restoration in a later phase.





Winners ancient and modern: Somerset House, top (photo: David Rose), the Millennium Centre in Dagenham, above (photo: Philip Meech)

LOTTERY WINNERS AND LOSERS

It is, after all, a lottery. With what other truism can the River and Rowing Museum Foundation comfort themselves today as they contemplate a £4m hole in their plans to celebrate the jolly boating life?

Work is almost complete on the museum building at Henley, the Thameside home of rowing. Designed by David Chipperfield. the modern, timber-clad "upturned boat" building has won acclaim and may have helped the architect secure his major commission to design the £100m Neues Museum for Berlin.

The HLF does not disclose why it rejects particular applications but said the museum sector was "heavily oversubscribed". Jonathan Bryant, the museum chief executive, said: "We certainly felt down but are definitely not out. We have to make every effort to secure other funds to open this museum during 1998 as planлed."

The museum's collection is taking shape, and includes the 1874 Thames steam launch Eva. a 2,000-year old log boat and the coxless pair in which Olympic champions Steve Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent won gold at the 1996 Atlanta games.

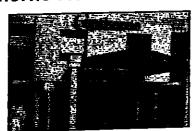
Included among the HLF winners were 41 churches and places of worship, which together got £3.5m towards restoration. Banbury Museum. Oxfordshire, is to get £2.2m for purpose-built galleries; Abbey House Museum, Leeds, will get £1.6m to conserve the medieval gateway of Kirkstall Abbey while adding a new gallery; £800,000 will help restore the historic Brooklands Motoring Village in Surrey; and £16m towards Sir Norman Foster's Great Court Scheme at the British Museum was re-confirmed.

Money was also promised "in to projects inclu the new National Maritime Museum Cornwall on the waterfront at Falmouth. Architects Long & Kentish, in collaboration with exhibition designers Land Design Studios, plan a building with "its feet in the harbour" allowing the tide and wind into the galleries.

Stebhen Goodwin

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limited number of rooms

Close your eyes and think of Dagenham

The Millennium Centre embodies many of the qualities that win hearts, minds and lottery money these days. And, reports Nonie Niesewand, it has been duly rewarded.

Mention Dagenham and the mind turns to endless images of cars rolling off the assembly line. The Ka, with its saucy little bumpers spinning out of Ford. Convoys of trucks. Exhaust fumes. Not a nature park with marshlands and butterflies, bees and trees. Yet just three miles down the road, the Millennium Centre opened vesterday to show off exhibits are a National Tree Week, Enof flora and fauna and highlight all the local wildlife and flowers that have returned to reclaimed land around this ecologically sound little educational centre.

The plan by Dagenham and the locals to everything that nature - with a bit of help from the council - has restored to their gravel pits. Filled in with leftover rubble from the bombing of London, trashed with rubbish over decades, the former dump turned into country parklands in the early Nineties. Landscapers moved earth to sealed off toxic soil with membranes and then layered it with soil, sewn with wild flower grassland mixes. Now there is a great variety of wildlife in the chemical-free eight-hectare site of Eastbrookend and the adjacent anglers' favourite spot, the collects sunlight and stores it in

put down their landing gear

So the council decided to build a visitor centre for an educational programme on the environment and to house their rangers, who look after the park and take nature walks. The total cost is £770,000. Over 1,500 school children who visited the parks, without any shelter if it rained, or any place to work, helped to secure the grant of £360,000 from the Millennium Commission. Chief executive Eric Sorenson called it "an innovative project, an excellent resource for local schools as well as complementing the new park". The centre plans to stage special exhibitions. In the diary already ergy Conservation Week and National Wildlife Week.

Naturally, the building had to be environmentally sound with all those nature lovers about. "We designed it to touch the ground lightly," say archi-Barking Council is to introduce tects Penoyre and Prasad, who won the competition. So lightly that it doesn't have any foundations. Concrete foundations disturb the landfill on reclaimed land, so the two-storeyed timber building, with its groundfloor exhibition centre, just pierces the ground with steelbladed screw-in earth anchors. If future generations want to get make undulating parklands, rid of the building, those foundations unscrew and the building comes down in sections, leaving no trace.

A solar-powered street lamp doesn't need underground cabling either. Looking like a lectern, the tilted solar panel Chase Nature Reserve. More batteries until dusk. Then it re-

monitored by Showers Solar are environmental and com-UK, who donated the lamp to the Millennium Centre. All the

electricity for the building is The architects wanted the building to be friendly and lowtech looking. And contextual, that buzz word for architects, which means that in this case it had to look eco-chic. More barn than boat. So they used wood for the surfaces and a corrugated metal roof to retain a barn-like appearance. Stairs housed in a funnel clad in Douglas fir caused early visitors on site to think a football stadium was going up.

The architects are particularly proud of the materials they used. Masonite beams made of off-cuts of wood glued into a strong composite are a cheaper way of building in big spans, carrying heavy weights. Like a hardboard rib with two softwood panels stiffened top and bottom. "it works the same way as a sheet of paper. If you stand paper up on its edge it's stronger than lying it flat", they say.

It's the kind of project that is dear to the Millennium Commission chairman, Chris Smith. He likes the idea of anything that gives a community a sense of civic pride, and anything to do with the environment. Add education to the list and you see why they will hold it up as an example of sustainable technolo-

One of the frustrations of being a commissioner ready to review projects and hand out lottery money for buildings is that they couldn't solicit applications. Everyone who applied had to prove that they had public support and aimed to which means that Arctic birds the first of its kind and will be way. The themes that emerged Dagenham.

munity-based projects. So this Dagenham environmental visitor centre is a good example of lottery money funding. Even better, it is opening on time and in budget - one of the first 10 lottery-funded projects nationwide.

It also highlights the diffi-

culties some of the other Mil-

lennium Commission projects

are facing. Too ambitious in their proposals, they have had to match 50:50 any lottery money they are given before breaking ground. That means appealing to private sponsors and funding bodies. Some have a building designed by the famous name architect but not enough money to get it off the drawing board. Others are worrying over filling these lotteryfunded buildings with interesting contents, and then maintaining them. All style, not enough content has come to dog a few of the really big players. Even Nicholas Serota had to go on a sponsorshipfunding programme in the US to help raise money for the new Tate at Bankside.

In the third and final phase of Millennium Commission handouts, Eric Sorenson announced that there is some money in the pot (he refused to be drawn on how much) for the Commission to review some projects and sort them out. Undoubtedly they will look carefully at model projects like this one in Dagenham. Not least because that overworked word Millennium means little more than a deadline.

Free public open days: Saturday 29, and Sunday 30 Nov, at the than 50,000 trees were planted, leases that energy as light. It's serve the community in some Millennium Centre, The Chase,

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To be young, in 1997, is to be safer than at any previous time in recorded history. Safer, that is, in the sense of not being likely to die - is there any measure more absolute than that? Childhood is safer because of medical advances and improvements in public health. It is also safer because children have fewer fatal accidents, a third as many as when Ted Heath was Prime Minister.

It follows that a lot of parental fear and anxiety is mistaken. Among the reasons is the role played by the British newspaper press; media-instigated fear of crime seems to be exaggeratedly high here compared with other countries. Parents' perceptions matter hugely in the way children are brought up. Jackie Lang of the Girls' Schools Association made the case yesterday for stepping back. Parents, she argued, need to let children breathe a bit, make a few mistakes. She is right.

This is not to try and capture some prelapsarian idyll when, like Richmal Compton's William, we could wander out in the meadows, slosh around in chtches, stuff frogs in our trouser pockets. It is true that, a generation ago, children played on largely empty streets which are now busy with cars. But it is also a fact that opportunities for physical activity for children have expanded enormously, from urban playgrounds, to clubs in and out of school catering for all manner of specialist interests. Turning children out of doors to play is neither to subject them to the depredations of drug dealers nor to see them fall under the wheels of

We do not live in an urban jungle. Wicked predators do not wait outside every school or linger by every playground. Of course parents must be alert, but paedophilia is not epidemic. Child homicide of any kind, let alone the brutality of the attack on Kate Bushell, is very, very rare.

As for traffic accidents, United Kingdom children are three times less likely to die on the roads than 30 years ago, and the UK record makes it just about the safest country in the European Union for children. The most dangerous place for all children was, is and will always be, in their own homes; and the most likely sources of violence against them lie within the sacred family.

Mrs Lang did not of course recommend that parents let their offspring roam free from dawn to dusk. She made her point by reference to rainwear. Why, she asked, do so few of her charges possess raincoats? Because they are delivered and picked up by car. From door to door, they rarely feel the rain on their skin. Fair enough, Mrs Lang educates the middle classes, who can afford the car journeys, But her point nevertheless applies more generally. Up and down the social structure, parents are tempted into overprotectiveness. They impose on their children regimes which cosset and insulate them. Intending to minimise risk to their children, they may end up depriving them of the chance to learn for themselves, to make their own risk assessments. No amount of GCSE maths can teach children the calculus of probability that they will need to apply, sooner or later, in their own lives.

Youth is surrounded by temptation, often compounded by ignorance. The United Kingdom is relatively safe for children on the roads, but it is a dangerous place between the sheets, on the sofa, or in the neighbourhood park; we have one of the highest rates for conceptions by under-16 girls in the EU. That, and high rates of sexually transmitted disease, reflect in part the failure of parents and schools to supply basic information. It may also speak about a wider failure to apportion risk. The newspapers (to name a prime mover in moral panics) and other media propagate the idea that sex is risk-free, while harping on the dangers of walking the neighbours' dog. The world out there is dangerous but many of its pitfalls are emotional. We spend far too much time protecting children from life, and far

ents or would-be parents. And we could make a start, where Mrs Lang recommends, by lightening up.

too little preparing them for its traps and The messages given to children are often so imbalanced that it is no wonder their scale of values is warped. Never take addictive drugs - unless they are sanctioned by advertising, the Prime Minister and parents. Never have unprotected sex - but when was the last time you saw or read about the messy business of condom-wearing? We could do better, as par-

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number.
Fax 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

LETTERS

Deer hunting

Sir: Due to pressure from a voluble minority, however sizeable, deer hunting has been banned on National Trust land. We were warned that this might lead to the reduction of deer numbers by other methods, notably shooting ("Bloody revenge for stag hunt ban", 25 November). We were even told why, but we chose to ignore the facts.

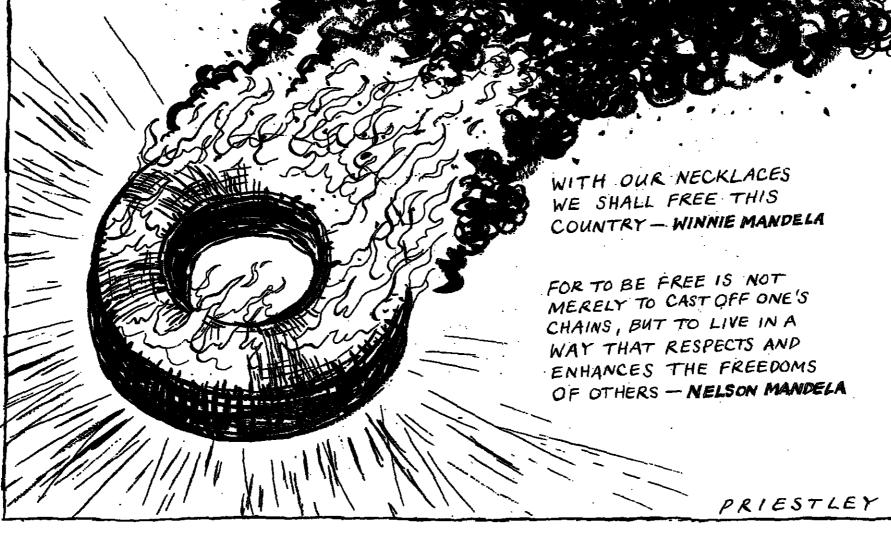
Grass feeds sheep and cattle, which are a cash crop; this business is called farming and provides an income, usually small, for a number of hardworking people in rural areas. These farmers nurture their grass through the spring, summer and autumn to provide feed for their animals during the winter. The deer eat this grass.

The culling of half the stag population in the Quantock Hills at this time of year is not a slaughter, it is a wise precaution to reduce the number of deer next year. This was not indiscriminate slaughter of hinds and young deer; their chance of reproducing, however, has been lessened. By removing the stags before the breeding season starts (next spring), and before the sheep and cattle have to be brought down from the uplands to their winter grazing areas, there will be more food for all the animals.

This act is not revenge, it is economics. Deer may be pretty and feature as red-nosed darlings on Christmas cards but they can have a serious impact on the rural economy on a localised scale, something that has been largely ignored in favour of more emotive issues. DAVID LUARD London NW10

Sir: Whilst we have warned of the consequences of the National Trust's removal, at a stroke, of the system that has ensured a constant and healthy herd of red deer on the Quantocks for the past 90 years, we have been surprised and shocked by the speed and size of the cull by farmers no longer prepared to tolerate

the damage to their crops. For the sake of the deer, I implore the Chairman of the National Trust, Charles Nunneley, to take up the compromise (allowing hounds to cross Trust land whilst further scientific research is carried out) offered to the Trust by the West Country staghounds shortly before the last council meeting.



which he apparently did not even put to his council at the time. Even at this late stage, I believe the National Trust can save what is left of our fine herd.

In the meantime I appeal to farmers on the Quantocks to half the cull in the hope that the National Trust (and the Forestry Commission) will act in the next few days to allow the existing deer management system to once again work effectively. NIGEL MUERS RABY

Quantock Staghounds Taunton, Somerset

Sir. I was appalled by the actions of farmers in Devon "protecting their crops". It is a fair assumption that deer will always have ventured on to these farmers' land and that until the ban on hunting imposed by the National Trust, the damage done to crops by these animals was tolerated. Now the animals can no longer be the victims of their barbarous play, farmers are

viewing them as simply another (windfall) cash crop.

> This merely serves to emphasise the moral bankruptcy of hunt supporters and the opportunistic greed of many in our farming community. STANLEY TYRER

Bury, Lancashire

Sir: If there is no hunting, deer become just another pest to farmers. Let us at least draw a lesson from this tragedy; if other forms of hunting are banned, many of the copses, hedgerows, ancient grasslands and other such habitats which farmers currently preserve and maintain because of hunting would become an expensive irrelevance. THOMAS ROCHFORD

Sir: With reference to the report which claimed to show stress levels suffered by deer when

chased . . . what else would do

you expect? The animal is in

fear of its life. Huntsmen are in-

troducing no greater level of cruelty than that which nature has supplied. There are people who wish to reintroduce wolves to prey on the red deer, in order to restore our natural heritage. Do you think the deer will

spot the difference? WILLIAM PETRIE Forres, Moray

> Museum charges Sir: In the next few weeks our

> major national museums are going to be making crucial decisions which will affect public access for many millions ("Don't end one of our few great Enlightenment legacies", 26 November).

Museums are being told not to look to the public purse but rather to turn to shops and supermarkets to learn how to find the extra income they desperately need. The logical conclusion of this argument is that museums should expect no public funding at all, competing in the visitor attraction market. Museums would be obliged to charge more and more as their funding reduced, inevitably deterring the less well-off.

The alternative is to reaffirm our national commitment - a commitment we have cherished from generation to generation - to fund our national collections properly. This commitment matters not only as an inclusive ideal - that the nation's treasures should be free for all, rich and poor - but also for its economic benefits to the creative industries, to cultural tourism, and to lifelong learning. CHRISTOPHER NAYLOR The Earl of CLANCARTY JAN WOOLF

JENNIFER EDWARDS HILARY GRESTY The Campaign for Free Admissions London NW6

Sir: In a realistic world, there is a fair, flexible and moderate path between free entry to museums and the high fixed charges which deter "pop-in" visitors.

The system which works admirably for car parking - take a ticket on entry, pay on exit must surely be adaptable for museums and galleries. The scale of charges would reflect the amount of time the visitor stays, starting with a nominal amount, perhaps as little as 50p. for up to half an hour.

This system would require investment in ticket and payment machines, but the high level of automation would reduce the ongoing costs of selling tickets personally. As a bonus, it could provide useful and reliable management information. PATRICIA SMITH London SWI

Sir: To argue (26 November) that the Elgin Marbles belong to us is unacceptable. We are stewards of the marbles at present, but we have no rights of ownership. While the British government paid Lord Elgin

for them almost 200 years ago, Elgin himself took them from the Parthenon without the approval of the Greeks and without having paid for them. He simply had a note giving him permission issued by an official of the occupying Ottoman administration. The Marbles be-

long in Athens, however much we love them. ROB BUSH

London N5 Poor law

Sir. Guy Carless is right to question (Letters, 26 November) the right of US citizens to settle freely in Colchester, when Slovakian gypsies are sent to prison whilst their asylum applications are processed. The reason for the difference is money. It has always been apparent that immigration laws only apply to

the poor. The Rev PETER M HAWKINS Peterborough, Cambridgeshire

Single parents

Sir: May I, in connection with the row about restricting payments to single parents ("Labour revolt threatened over cut in lone-parent benefit", 21 November), make an outrageous suggestion?

I think single parents should be split into two categories, the deserving and the not so deserving. Single parents who are so because their partners have died or left them (after having committed themselves in the first place to sharing parenthood, either by marriage or otherwise) should receive state support sufficient to let them decide whether they want to work or stay at home to look after their children.

Single parents who are so through choice or carelessness should be expected to work, provided (and this is a big but") the government can set up a nationwide properly funded and organised system of

child care. I am very willing to have my taxes used to support the first category, who are single parents through no choice of their own. But why should I support women who decide to have babies without the means or the partners to support them?

LYNNE REID BANKS Beaminster Dorset

Health warning

Sir: You report that Peter Mandelson and the food industry have been arguing that the Food Standards Agency should concentrate on safety, rather than nutrition (24 November).

In the long run, aren't they the same thing? Poor nutrition means early death - sounds unsafe to me. TERRY GILBERT lpswich, Suffolk

Faith in superstition

Sir. Peter Banks says (Letters, 25 November) that he is not surprised that churches in this country are in decline, given that clergy give public credence to "superstitions belonging to the dark ages". Forgive me, but isn't that what priests are for? MARK YNYS-MON

What can

* MACLEN NEW

Alions;

How to be a card this Christmas - and look like a complete turkey



KINGTON

One day Henry Trapp said to his wife Mary: "Are we going to

He said this every year as Christmas came over the hori-

In reply to this he always said:

To which she always said: relations and old friends, for exing cards by hand to all our ing ... The commercialisation of Christmas has just got out of

send any cards this year?"

zon like a dinosaur. It was a signal for his wife to say, as she always did: "Td love

"Me, too. But there are some people we really have to send cards to.

"Well, some, perhaps. Far-flung ample. But the idea of deliverneighbours is just too revolthand. And we all go along with it the whole time!"

This was the same conversation they had every year. You too, dear reader, have probably had it too, and then sighed deeply and got down to the business of doing your cards. But at this point in the Trapp household the conversation took a

"Well, this year I'm not going to send any cards to the locals. Or anyone. Instead, I'm going to hire a sandwich board

sharp new turn, for Henry Trapp

"You're what?" "I'm going to hire a sandwich board man to march up and down the locality with a message saying 'HENRY TRAPP WISHES EVERYONE A HAPPY CHRISTMAS IN 1997 AND WILL NOT BE SEND-ING CARDS THIS YEAR.'"

Mary thought about it for a moment. On the one hand, it was inexpressibly vulgar. On the other hand, it was a great idea, as long as she didn't have said Mr Manners. to do it.

"Could you make that 'Mr and Mrs Henry Trapp'?" she

"Of course," said Henry,

and went off to inquire about hiring a sandwich board man. Unfortunately, they were all hired out already, it being Christmas, but he managed to hire a spare sandwich board, and decided to wear it himself. He painted the sign with his seasonal message of greeting and went out in the streets of his village to walk up and down for a half hour or so every day, long enough to get the message over and to exercise the dog.

On the third day, he was stopped by a Mr Herbert Manners, whom he knew slightly. "This message of yours ..."

"Yes?" said Henry Trapp. tensing slightly. He had halfexpected to meet an enraged Christian sooner or later, who might accuse him of sacrilege, or possibly a local parish councillor who would insist that a sandwich board would need planning permission ...

"I couldn't help noticing that the back of the board is blank," said Mr Manners. "Any chance you could carry Christmas wishes from Mr and Mrs Manners as well?" "Yes, but it will cost you,"

said Mr Trapp cheerfully. They settled on a fixed rate of £20 for the inclusion of the

Manners' Christmas greeting, which, as Mr Trapp said, sounded a lot, but would hardly buy a dozen good quality cards these days ...

During the next week or so Henry was approached by several other customers, until he had to redesign the notice to get them all in. "Happy Christmas greetings from Mr and Mrs Henry Trapp, Mr and Mrs Manners, Mrs Harrison the florist," and so on.

Then the vicar approached him in the street.

Henry's heart sank. "Morning, Mr Trapp," said the vicar pleasantly. "Is this Christmas advertising parade of yours going to last much

Well," said Henry cautiously, "a few more days, I mers, who were in fact the

thought ..." "Good," said the vicar, "In that case I wondered if I might add a note to your board about the times of the Christmas services in the church, and a display feature about the Carol

Service on Dec 18th?"

For a moment, Henry was tempted to allow the vicar to post his announcement free, but commercial sense prevailed just in time and he charged him a flat £40. Taking advertising was just the breakthrough that he needed, and after the vicar's announcement had been accepted he also took ads from the village shop ("Low, low prices for spirits!"), the village pub ("Special Turkey Business Lunch!"), the seasonal visit of the Morris dancers and also of the mum-

Morris dancers in another guise. "We've had a lot fewer cards this year," said Mary Trapp. "Good," said Henry. "Aren't you a bit sad about

London N3

"Not when you-think that I've made a couple of hundred quid out of my campaign against Christmas cards already," said Henry, "Christmas cards have

been very good to me this year." "Don't you think it's a bit odd," said Mary Trapp, "that this all started as a protest against the commercialisation of Christmas? And now you're making money out of the protest? What

are you going to do next year?" "Expand," said Henry, getting up to go out to the shed, where he had already started work on making his own sand-

21/COMMENT

Just imagine, the earl and the loofah. It's all terribly surreal

JOHN WALSH

ines

fined

ention



It's hard to say whether the Earl Spencer divorce case is working out as comedy or tragedy, but it's certainly packing in a lot of amusement value. You could hear a collective gasp of outrage across the metropolis when the papers reported the view of "expert witness" Jeremy Posnansky that, for a settlement of £300,000, Lady Spencer would be able to afford only "a house in a very unattractive distant suburb with problems such as crime". Everybody who recently paid £300,000 for a Charming, Four-Bedroomed, South-Facing, Crime-Free Home, Handy for Shops and Underground Station could be heard demanding, "Oi! What's wrong with Shepherd's Bush/Clapham Common/ Muswell Hill then?"

More obviously rebarbative was the suggestion by Lord Spencer's brief, Leslie Weinkove, that her ladyship shouldn't be entrusted with a settlement of £3.75m because she might not look after it properly ("There is a question mark over her ability to manage such an award, given that she has a 12step approach to life"). Poor Victoria may be a recovering alcoholic, but it does not, presumably, stop her hiring a financial adviser. More alarming is the implication that Mr Weinkove regards a cash award as if it were some kind of small child, in danger of neglect and abuse.

I confess to a shameless fascination with this case, even down to the public displays of insouciance: how, one day, the earl is "laughing and joking" with his advocates while his wife is grim-faced; the next, they've swapped roles, and she is having uproarious fun with one of the earl's ex-squeezes, while he is looking tense. Are they taking it in turns? Is it all being stage-managed by the shadowy Mr Weinkove?

The scene that most sticks in the mind, however, is that business in the bathroom. According to his wife, his lordship was actually lying in the marital bath when he explained to her that she was a hopeless wife and a crap mother, that he had found someone else and wanted a divorce. He did all this, let me remind you, while lying supine, naked, pink, hideously complacent and spectacularly vulnerable in a lot of warm water. How many female readers of these sordid details have, I wonder, become lost in silent contemplation of what they might have done with (handily adjacent) nailbrush, loofah, aerosol can, plastic duck and freezing cold shower head attachment?

Fun and games in Cork Street on Tuesday evening, when George Melly and a couple of hundred groovy chums piled into the Mayor Gallery to celebrate the launch of his

book Don't Tell Sybil, the story of his encounter with the British wing of the European Surrealist movement, and in particular its leading light, ELT Mesens, the Belgian collagiste (Melly had a brief affair with him and his wife). The place was full of ephebic young men, with black and white mohair coats and hungry eyes. Everywhere you went, the S-word kept turning up. "This conversation is getting terribly surreal," people assured each other, even though they'd done little more than remark on the clemency of the November evenings. The evergreen artist Harry Blacker, now 88, remembered meeting Andé Breton, the proto-Surrealist, in Paris in 1934. Breton offered him an oddlooking painting of a nude with drawers (the other sort) protruding from her limbs. It was by an unknown Hispanic called S Dali. The price was £50. "I couldn't afford it," says Blacker, aghast at what he had missed. "It represented ten weeks' salary". In the corridor, Julian Mitchell, the playwright and Inspector Morse scribe, explained to Maggie Hambling why he had two black/orange eyes and a lot of sticking plaster on his nose. An operation for skin cancer, apparently brought on by too much Mediterranean sun. "I blame it on the Somerset Maugham Award 1 got 30 years ago," he raged, "and their stipulation that you have to spend it abroad." Beside us, a breathless blonde in black sequins scrutinised one of ELT Mesens's famous collages, this one a mixedmedia symphony of faded newsprint, purple paint and autumn leaves. "Oh it's all newspaper," she said, disappointed. "From a distance, it looked like silk. I thought, what a good pattern that would make for a pair of leggings ..." Jolly surreal.

The artist-patron relationship has always been a little fraught. One side supplies the cash and the condescension, the other does the creativity and the gratitude. It's never going to be a smooth and happy business. But one can only guess at the chronicle of supplication, hope, rejection and tears that lies behind the brusque "Acknowledgement" in Lucy Ellmann's new novel, Man or Mango? published next spring. It reads: "The author wishes to make clear that she did not receive a single fucking penny from the Arts Council of Great Britain while writing this novel."

The time: 11.15am on Monday. The scene: Carriage F on the 10.45am South Wales and West train speeding to Newport. The personnel: chaps in suits, female management consultant, fat Welsh family returning home after London weekend. The tables are full of coffee cups, orange juice cans, pain au chocolat. Then, shattering the peace, comes the voice of a huge, burly, besuited man with a mobile phone clamped in one bearish paw. He barrels into the compartment like a school bully and swaggers along it. His voice suggests Ireland, and he is yelling instructions down the tiny phone as if struggling to be heard in Inishbofin, over the boom of the Atlantic. He is oblivious to the people in the carriage, and pauses at an empty seat to bellow further orders, as if stopping to rest at a park bench. My fellow traveller across the table raises his eyebrow, then turns right round in his seat to glare at the miscreant. But he's British and therefore wouldn't dream ...

"SO YOU'LL MEET ME THERE?" bellows the Irishman. "BUT HOW WILL YOU KNOW ME?" There's a brief shared giggle around the compartment. Then a man at the back emerges from his newspaper: and calls out, "That'll be simple. You'll be the one doing the shouting." The man looks over, with Celtic hostility. Is there going to be trouble? Amazingly, a second man shouts, "You don't really need a phone, do you?" Mutiny! From nowhere, a third chips in, "He can probably hear you just as well without one." The man, after a dumbshow of bafflement, aggression and hurt, shambles off to the security of the next carriage, leaving us triumphant. But I remember how he looked: like an actor, confident of wowing the audience with his swashbuckling panache, and finding instead a lot of heckling, catcalls and root vegetables flung through the air.



Today sees the arrival of Santa Claus at Macy's (above) and the beginning of Christmas shopping across the US

Photograph: Reuters

The hardest sell: persuading Americans to give up shopping



POLLY TOYNBEE NO BUYING DAY

A few days ago, standing in midtown New York outside FAO Schwartz, the dream toy shop, with Bergdorf Goodman just across the road, Bloomingdales and Macy's not far away, I stopped to breathe in the heady oxygen of pure unadulterated Christmas consumption. It's what New York's for. It's a dry martini, a high octane, mainline jolt of retail nirvana, shopping

Most Greens have never felt a twinge of any of that. In fact they have no idea at all what you mean, and they shudder in genuine revulsion at this avid consumption. They simply cannot understand why people who have so much staff already can possibly want anything more. That is why the Greens are not much good at getting across their message that the party is over and some of this has to change before we really

do shop till we drop.

A story on the front page of the Wall Street Journal caught my eye on the newsstand that morning. Adbusters, a wellfinanced green media campaign, were protesting that all the US television networks had refused to carry their expensively produced commercial for No Buying Day (which is tomorrow, the day after Thanksgiving). Adbusters plans to take the TV networks to court, for breaching the First Amendment (free speech).

Their ad showed a cartoon pig licking its lips and snorting over a map of the US with a voice-over in tones of green disgust telling Americans that in their guzzling greed they each consume "five times more than a Mexican, 10 times more than a Chinese and 30 times more than an Indian ..." Americans do not like to be called pigs, guzzlers, fat or ugly so the networks banned the commercial. When the ad did appear on the cable CNN channel, the campaign was inundated with abusive calls from people insisting on their right to consume whatever they like.

What of tomorrow's No

Buying Day? It has about as much chance of success in Manhattan as an Anti-Allah rally in Tehran. Nonetheless, all over the Western world, following America's lead, tomorrow is anti-shopping day. In London, Friends of the Earth is opening a No Shop art installation in Waterloo for No Shop Day. A No Sales Assistant (a familiar sort) will sell people nothing and give them receipts thanking them for not shopping here. There will be No Shop zones in many British cities, with people selling "real" values - Romance Wine, Best Pal Lager and limited edition jars of Happiness. Some people will be making their own Christmas presents in the streets (beware the macrame pot-plant

While it's witty, there is also a puritanical moral agenda here that makes their message pretty unpalatable. Sometimes the green movement sounds as if it started out with a revulsion for the modern world, and then looked around for good scientific reasons to back up their gut disgust. They simply lack that sense of pleasure and good fortune others of us feel when contemplating the wonder of a television set, a com-

holder and the rafia lamp-

shade).

a washing machine or a mobile phone. Back to nature is all very well, but a washing machine is a whole lot better. In a recent hand-out, Friends of the Earth quotes a (male) guru describing the clothes' line as one of

Seven Sustainable Wonders of

the World. Really. Kalle Lasn, the American former advertising executive who founded Adbusters, which devotes itself to debunking consumerism, says No Buying Day is a chance to make people break their "Buyalogical Urge". He told me he thinks shopping is a sign of depression, a disease. "For the disempowered, it's therapy because in a shop they're the boss, in control, with all these nice polite sales assistants. Of course when

they come out they feel even

worse. The whole American

dream is built on consuming more and more." Friends of the Earth in London are equally inclined to moralise. Said their press officer yesterday, "Most of what people consume doesn't buy them pleasure. They can have more cars and mobile phones, but they really need more time for family, friends and communicating with people." (It's good to talk, but not by phone). Buying things doesn't buy people happiness in any meaningful sense." This kind of talk makes me uneasy. How do you judge whose happiness is meaningful"?

All this anti-consumerism in the Green movement is a serious mistake. It alienates normal people, who, since the dawn of time, have always liked to acquire more things, given half a chance. Shopping is now the top leisure activity, hence the burgeoning malls. Telling people they mustn't - or worse, that they're pigs, is a recipe to guarantee the Green movement a permanent place on the margins of political life.

Next week the Kyoto climate summit opens, trying, yet again, puter, a central heating to commit the world's big conthermostat, a microwave, a car, sumers to burn less fossil fuel.

dly bit for more home insula-The more economic growth, the more fuel we burn: emitting less tion, as if greenness was just a little add-on. If our politicians CO2 usually means consuming don't dare hint at even a little less. At last the world's leaders belt-tightening, then who is are signed up to the idea that going to change popular attisomething must be done, betudes, creating a political clicause climate change is here mate where politicians can be and is a peril. The Americans are again cast as the villains, elected who will tackle the

with their Congress refusing to

cut back, despite Clinton's ef-

forts. Europe will look smug:

while American CO2 emis-

sions have soared, the EU will

hit its target of stabilising CO2

at 1990 levels by the year 2000.

However, Europe has only

done it by accident not by

green self-sacrifice - with re-

cessions in some countries.

Britain's shift from coal to gas

power stations, Germany's

cleaning up/closing down of

the East's inefficient dirty fac-

tories. In other words, no one

has yet taken any pain on pur-

pose in order to slow global

reach a significant legally bind-

ing agreement it will be out of

fear of the voters in rich coun-

tries who have not yet serious-

ly confronted the issue. Why

not? Because the West's lead-

ers have not dared confront

their voters with the bard truth.

Only this week our own Chan-

cellor was trumpeting both

economic growth and lower

energy prices, while giving a tid-

If the West's leaders fail to

warming.

global climate? If all we've got is the green movement, then the message is unlikely to get far. Apocalypse Now is not the right message, nor is hair-shirt shopping-hate. Change is needed, but it doesn't mean closing down Oxford Street and the end of capitalism. Fuel prices need to rise, energy conserved, patterns of consuming and public spending need to change. Doing that equitably will be difficult but not impossible, nor the end of shopping as we know it. But, yes, it does mean some pain.

I like the radical plan devised by Dr Mayer Hillman, of the Policy Studies Institute, where every country, then every individual within it, is given an energy ration. The rich could buy rations from the poor, to their mutual advantage, distributing both energy and money more fairly. But as Kyoto will probably prove, the world is still as unlikely to adopt that kind of thinking as Manhattan is to shut down on No Buying Day

HELP US STOP THIS NOW principles to help to ensure that the commission on electoral re-Day after day, this beer is dragged into a bloody arena to tace pairs of cross-bred built terriers. His teeth have been ripped out and his claws blumfad, so he is at the mercy of the dogs' victous teeth. The trainer again, be is fighting for his ille. Over 2.000 bear-baltings take place each year in Pr

Our Libearty campaign frees captive bears and returns them to a safe natural habitat, campaigns to enforce laws protecting bears, and

safe natural habitat, campaigns to enforce laws protecting be fights ignorance with training and education. Piesee help us end this berbaric 'sport'.

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What can happen when opposing parties co-operate

ROBERT MACLENNAN opposition, threatened by nationalists in their heartland. **VOTING** REFORM

The agreement of the Committee on Constitutional Reform, chaired by Robin Cook and myself before the general election, much of which was embodied in our manifesto and that of the Labour Party, has set in train an unprecedented legislative programme of constitutional change. And now, with the expected announcement of the appointment of a Government Commission to recommend a fair voting system for Westminster, is an apt moment to reflect on the results of cross-party co-operation.

The two parties started from quite different positions. Labour - frustrated by years of tionalists in their heartland. scandalised by Tory abuses of power and patronage - recognised the need for a number of different reforms to minister to the nation's sickness of government. We Liberal Democrats had a wider and more coherent ultimate objective - a rebalanced written constitution, with proper checks and balances, to replace the outdated concept of the sovereignty of Parliament with a practical scheme to secure the sovereignty of the people. But the political parties thought it helpful to the securing of a reformminded Parliament to agree a common programme of step-by-

step changes. The innovation of the Liberal Democrat membership of the Cabinet Committee has been a necessary part of the

process of implementing constitutional change. It has given us the forum in which to argue for our priorities, to seek to modify proposals or to bring forward timely and apt ideas to meet problems. Of course there have been moments of difficulty and disagreement; but to have within prospect the achievement of Scottish and Welsh Home Rule, the European Convention on Human Rights enforceable in British Courts, and a nationwide proportional system of election to the European Parliament - to pick out only the pre-eminent matters tackled - is highly satisfactory.

For many reformers, however, the question of fair votes for Westminster is a touchstone issue. It is the key to the pluralist system of government to which we aspire. In our crossparty pre-election agreement we proposed that "a Commission on voting systems for the Westminster parliament should

Parliament to recommend the appropriate proportional alternative to the first-past-the-post system." We are approaching the moment when the process of implementing that undertaking must be put in train. The choice of chairman and

be appointed early in the next

membership of the commission are important to the achievement of a recommendation that will carry weight with the electors. The remit of the commission should satisfy the two parties' agreement, in the case of Labour specifically reflected in their election manifesto.

There have been flurries of speculation from time to time that the non-proportional Alternative Vote would be the preferred choice of Labour to put to the people (an outcome wholly at odds with all our commitments). When the work of proposing an alternative proportional voting system is passed to the commission, elec- consensus embodying these cross-party co-operation.

toral reformers would be wise to reflect that it is the principles behind our preferred system to which we are ultimately attached: a proportional national outturn, wider voter choice and, preferably, the attachment of elected members to geographical constituencies. Liberal Democrats favour

STV and will strenuously recommend this to the commission: because it is a broadly, though not precisely, proportional system. It does secure voter choice and does attach elected Members to geographical constituencies. The Alliance Commission in 1982, chaired by Sir Henry Fisher, advocated STV with a few sparsely populated constituencies voting by AV. A composite scheme including an element of AV, but which gives a nationally proportional outturn, could meet all our principles. Electoral reformers must now work for a

form will indeed advocate a proposal behind which we can unite to win the support of the British people for reform in the following referendum. What wider conclusions are to be drawn for the future

from the experience of the last few months? This co-operative activity differs from coalition. The participants are not collectively responsible for all the decisions of government but, in respect of the areas of co-operation, must observe the rules which apply to government deliberations. More important, the partners are bonour-bound to seek agreements both can commend as helping to achieve their shared goals. The success of the co-operation so far has rested not on aspirations but upon hard-edged agreed policies. It is that which must necessarily limit the scope of

Dr Hastings Banda

Kamuzu Banda (Hastings Kamuzu Banda), medical practitioner and politician: born 14 May 1898; Minister of Natural Resources and Local Government, Nyasaland 1961-63; Prime Minister of Malawi 1963-66, President 1966-94, Life President 1971-94; died Johannesburg 25 November

He was one of the most extraordinary people of the 20th century. He lived three different lives; as a peasant, a doctor and them. He died a lonely and unthe cultural schizophrenia which tore his soul. His first name was Kathuzu.

a little root. He was conceived after his mother had been given root herbs by the medicine man to cure infertility. Banda means a small hut. Later he took the name Hastings from John Hastings, a Scottish missionary working near his village whom he admired. The next name he added to himself was Doctor, first in the United States in 1937, and then in Edinburgh and Glasgow, collecting the initials LRCP and LRCS (Edin) and LRFPS (Glas). And he also became an elder of the Church of Scotland.

When he swept to power as the first President of Malawi in 1966 he called himself "Ngwazi", which means conqueror, and after a few years declared himself "Life President". So his extended title read: "His Excellency The Life President (Paramount Chief) Dr Hastings Kamuzu Banda, the Ngwazi". This is how all official organs in Malawi had to refer to him. He was also Minister of External Affairs, Minister of Defence, Minister of Agriculture, Minister of Justice, Minister of Works and Supplies, Minister of Women's and Children's Affairs and Minister of Community Services. He ruled Malawi for nearly 30 years, until his defeat in presidential elections in May

A friend who saw the president in one of his last illnesses said that when he parted from study proved stronger and he set were reports that he had been him the old man wept and said "I'm so lonely, so lonely."

Yet he had rejected companionship and marriage and turned his back on the Englishwoman who bore his son. territory. Once a dedicated doctor with admiring patients, first in Liverpool, then Newcastle and Harlesden, he was surrounded by friends. But he was swept away on a tide of history which he thought he controlled but which finally washed him up alone in a world he did not understand. In his last years he was a kine. But he failed to integrate under the control of the "Official Hostess", Cecilia Kadzahappy man unable to reconcile mira, once a nurse in his Blantyre practice. She was always at his side controlling his life: who saw him, what he read, what he was told, what he

> seem to have been close to him. He created the prison but the circumstances of his life drew him into it. He was born, the son of an African farmer. apparently in 1898 (though the official year of his birth was always 1906), at a time when the existence of white people was but a rumour in that part of Africa. As he was growing up near Lake Nyasa the first mission schools were founded among the Chewa people by Scottish missionaries. They changed African society for ever. They also made a deep impression on the young Banda, who never lost his links with

signed. But even she does not

Scotland and its church. The choice for a young man then was between a hard life of tilling Africa's precarious soil or education and the world. From then on Banda's sole aim was education. His first journey was to South Africa. He walked the 1.000 miles to Johannesburg and worked in the mines. But in his spare time he studied and in 1925 he got spousorship to go to school in the United At the universities of Indiana

and Chicago he graduated in medicine, philosophy, history and political science, but although he talked a lot of returning to help his fellow countrymen his appetite for

off for Scotland. He excused his running an abortion clinic. quest for British medical qualifications on the grounds that allow him to practise on British

His stay in Scotland, gathering more degrees, accelerated his journey away from his original home. He was becoming eccentrically European. His shyness and reserve masked a puritanical streak, perhaps a egacy of his narrow Scottish education which was later to be so dominant. It made him intolcrant of couples dancing together and he was appalled at the lax wartime morals and the ensuing secret abortions. But he was fastidious and diligent as a doctor and was renowned for acts of kindness towards his patients. In 1941 he set up his practice in a poor area of Liverpool, waiving fees for poor patients and even paying the rents of the

It is astonishing that a black man could attract such a large and varied medical practice at that time. From Liverpool he moved to Harlesden in north London. Again he attracted a large and devoted following, mostly white and middle- or lower middle-class. He was said to be particularly good with children. He was becoming very British, parted his hair and adopted a Homburg hat, furled umbreila and dark three-piece suit. He was welcomed into people's homes and gained an acceptance and integration which was remarkable. But it also strained his personality. He had always kept in touch with African politics and politicians but at this time Banda became increasingly peremptory and high-handed in his dealing

His secretary became pregnant with his child and her husband sued for divorce. He fled from Britain to Ghana, his secretary followed him but he rejected her and he never sup-

with other Africans. Kwame

Nkrumah, the doyen of the

African leaders, he referred to

as "my boy".

There is no record of what was going on in his mind at this American qualifications did not time but the crisis coincided with rapid change in Africa so he threw himself into African politics. The white settlers of the Rhodesias wanted Nyasaland to be part of a Central African Federation. Banda and other African leaders opposed it actively. The battle brought Banda back to his original country after 43 years. The campaigners inside the country kept the leadership for Nyasaland's most educated son but Banda no longer spoke his mother tongue and mistrusted the local politicians. He returned in triumph but he asked British friends to advise him about whom to trust.

> After mass African protest broke the federation plan, independence followed swiftly with Banda inheriting Nyasaland in 1966, which he renamed Malawi. Shortly after he became president he turned on his former colleagues, sacking and imprisoning them. After that he was the most totalitarian ruler in Africa. No decision in Malawi was taken without his consent. Like an enthusiastic colonial officer be wanted to impose on Malawi his idea of education and progress, but no colonial officer would have dared treat Africans in Banda's patronising and imperious manner. He regarded them as children to be guided with a firm hand.

He stressed obedience and hard work. Anyone who challenged or even questioned his authority was silenced. His power was absolute. Thirteen years ago, speaking to fellow southem African heads of state, he said: "Government larte means Kamuzu Kamuzu is Malawi. So be frank when you are speaking about government. You know you are speaking about Kamuzu, that is all, whether you like it or not."

Once he had acquired power, he was careful never to appear radical in front of the former colonial masters and pleased the British government ported their child. He left by maintaining trade and con-Ghana under a cloud and there tact with South Africa, con-



Banda: a 'very British' doctor in Harlesden who became the most totalitarian ruler in Africa

demning his fellow African leaders more than he did apartheid. He also appropriated businesses and land amounting to a third of the country's GDP, incorporating them into Press Holdings, a trust which he controlled. This gave him a huge source of patronage.

His bizarre projects for Malawi betrayed his own inability to reconcile his Western life as a British doctor and the realities of Africa. He was cult trally European and uncertain about his African roots. He barred mini-skirts and trousers on women and long hair on men. He founded an English public school, the Kamuzu

taught Latin and Greek. He became one of Africa's biggest tobacco growers. He persecuted the Jehovah's Witnesses. It was a strange Ruritanian rule, a mixture of village Africa and British ritual, traditional warriors and brass bands.

One of the most spectacular and surreal sights I have ever seen in Africa was Hastings Banda in Homburg hat and dark three-piece suit, riding high in the raised back of his open Rolls-Royce. Around the shrieked. car a vast heaving throng of women danced and sang and

Ngwazi's smiling image. Beside him, waving majestically like a consort dressed in a broad blue hat and pink frock. was Margaret Thatcher.

A short time before, a Scottish clergyman met his old friend from Edinburgh and dared to ask him about another old Malawian friend whom Banda had thrown into prison. Banda writhed, foamed at the mouth and stamped his feet. "They shall rot, rot, rot," he

In May 1994, after months of pressure by Western aid jogged along, all wearing the donors, Banda gave in and held same cloth emblazoned on a referendum on whether

Academy, near Lilongwe, which breast and bottom with the Malawi should remain a oneparty state or adopt a multiparty system. His rallies were. feebly attended as he struggled to read prepared speeches under a blazing sun. When he spoke extempore he reverted to . speeches he had given 30 years. before asking the people to choose between him and colonial rule. He turned the debate into a personal campaign, a choice for or against him. He lost hugely. It was a shattering personal rejection. And he was reported to be bitter that no one had warned him. But perhaps ... that was the price of absolute

- Richard Dowden

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Professor Charles Kennedy



Charles Marius Kennedy, economist: born London 9 February 1923; Fellow, Queen's College, Oxford 1948-61: Professor of Economics, University of the West Indies 1961-66: Professor of Econom Theory, University of Kent 1966-70 (Honorary Professor 1970-97); married 1959 Ann Cullis (three sons, one daughter); died Canterbury 4 November 1997.

Charles Kennedy once remarked that the best way to deal with death was not to pay too much attention to it. Though this dictum may have been intended as a jeu d'esprit it about his experiences there. It nevertheless reminds one vividly of a cardinal feature of his character: his aversion to fuss in any form or situation.

Kennedy's career as an aca-

1948 when Queen's College, Oxford, elected him as its Fellow in Economics to succeed the American C.J. Hitch. Kennedy had graduated from Balliol with a first in PPE in 1942, and was the youngest candidate, but the Governing Body accepted the opinion of a number of distinguished Oxford economists that he was the one most likely to do important things in the world of economics; a judgement fully justified.

It was well known at this

Cabinet Office under Lord Cherwell during the first part of the Second World War but even his closest friends found him unwilling to say anything was not much easier, either, to elucidate the circumstances which, at the time of the D-Day landings in 1944, found him serving in the Merchant Navy demic economist took off in as an Able Seaman. Throughout his life, Kennedy tended to want to close the door behind him when a new stage in his life began.

From the college's point of view, and his own, his election was a great success. On the research side, his early work was mainly in monetary theory and welfare economics to which he made fundamental contributions. Later he switched to the fields of growth economics, technical progress and capital theory which were to make him internationally famous time that he had served in the after he left Oxford in 1961.

His originality of mind was especially appreciated by his Oxford contemporary Sir John Hicks, who in 1972 won the Nobel Prize for economics, and acknowledges a strong debt to Kennedy in his classic book Capital and Time (1973). As a teacher, Kennedy was effective and popular and secured the lasting affection of many of his pupils, but a certain innate shyness and a characteristic disdain for platform histrionics perhaps made his formal lectures hard work for the less dedicated students.

Senior Common Room life for a number of years satisfied his social needs and his continual search for intellectual stimulus. He was, however, no intellectual snob; those who only knew him in later years when he cultivated a somewhat staid, even patriarchal, demeanour will perhaps be somewhat surprised to learn that he was thought of in

Queen's as something of a moment decision in 1955 to go Young Turk who had made on a cruise to the West Indies came Kennedy's way when he football pools or the latest episode of Mrs Dale's Diary into acceptable subjects for Common Room conversation.

Kennedy's father, George Kennedy, was a well-known London architect who had been at the Slade School and numbered Maynard Keynes and Henry Lamb among his friends and sponsors. It was therefore unsurprising that Kennedy's own talents as a painter received every encourgement at home. His mother, Mary, was a hugely energetic and liberal-minded matriarch who had made organising her husband, her five sons and countless relatives and friends

into her life's work. In addition to regular visits to family houses in Ireland and Cornwall, Kennedy travelled a good deal in Europe in the post-war years, usually in order to paint. A spur-of-the-

was a turning-point in his life. His painter's vision was entranced by the light and colour of the tropical island landscapes and buildings and he found he had an unexpected empathy with the West Indians

and their culture. Though on his return he continued to make important contributions to economic theory, he became restless in Oxford. But then, by chance, his life was to change dramatically. In 1959, he accompanied an Oxford friend, who had been ill, on a Mediterranean cruise in the liner Iberia. Early in the voyage he met a Somerville chemistry graduate, Ann Cullis, who was working with Max Perutz's team in Cambridge on the structure of haemoglobin. A whirlwind romance followed, and a few months later the couple were

married in Chelsea. Two years later, in 1961, an- Kennedy was offered the new

was offered a Chair of Economics at the University of the West Indies in Jamaica. He regarded the five years he spent there as the happiest of his life. He got on well with the then Vice-Chancellor, Sir Arthur Lewis, himself a distinguished economist; and living in a developing economy inspired new

theoretical work in the field of ореп есопоту тастоесопотics including the input-output formulation of the foreign trade multiplier. His wife, Ann, who had perforce to abandon her own career to bring up four children in the tropics, was a tireless and gifted homemaker. This good life, however, could not go on for ever. Political changes affecting the university were afoot, and there was the problem, too, of the children's

education Providentially for him,

other stroke of good fortune Chair of Economic Theory at the University of Kent, and in 1966 moved from Jamaica to Canterbury, where he lived for . -the rest of his life.

For reasons that were nev-11 er made clear to the outside world, Kennedy did not enjoy the duties of his new Chair asmuch as he had expected. There was always a streak of self-doubt in his make-up. This was exacerbated by the stringent rules for personal integrity which he : had long since set for himself. He resigned the Chair in 1970 but continued to teach part-time for the Department of Economics until 1984, as well as giving financial advice to the university.

In his contented semiretirement, he turned away from mainstream economics, pursuing instead an active theoretical and practical interest in the new financial instruments of options and warrants.

- Peter Russell

BIRTHS, **MARRIAGES** & DEATHS

BIRTHS

MacCARTHY: On 22 November 1997 to Tina and Desmond a daughter, a sister for Edmund.

IN MEMORIAM

JACK: In memory of Tertius William, remembered on this day. Much loved and missed, Husband to Gwyncth, fa-ther to Deborah and Robin, grand-Lather to Jamie, Nick and Hayley.

For Gazette, telephone 9171-293 2012.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS
The Queen and The Dulin of Richardurgh wist Radey
College, Cristothier. The Queen wist community properture of Berimsheld, Wallenghout, South Onforchiste. The
Dulin of Richardshey. I wish R.M. Pr. and Caferrid Augumetry Lumited in Million Park, soor Ablandon, Oxformicine. The Queen Mother discs with the Beachers
of the Nickele Rempie. The Primans Royal, President.
Sowe the Criston Frank, with the Mosesiay's Prison Holimens, Parkhurs Rand, London NT, as Parona, Sense.
The National Derellmin and Robelth Association, witins a charge story. Seven Sisters, Read. London NT, as
Patron. Viction Support, altends in Annual General
and transfer the Security Endowment Rand (UK) Landonning The Remery, Chlorell Street, London ECI;
and minach the Security Endowment Rand (UK) Lanchenn Reception in The Gening Hotel, Benston Place.
Clausering Cardens, London SW. The Dundenses of
Clauserings, Patron. National Association, vice and Research
and Street, London ECI. Priscons Alexandra, Patron,
opens the prewith Workplant Day Centre of EEN - Most
and Aller Tauty Remembers Ford at Humber Rand,
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Stote, Coveneys, West Medication and at Humber Rand,
Rend, Blackshown, Lansandagon Spa. Warnetchister.

Chillian Service of Aller Guennel. ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

Changing of the Guard nuschold Cavalry Mounted Regiment snowns see's Life Geard at Horse Guards, 11am: 1st so the Royal Regispont of Wides statusts the Ouard, of Bucklegham Palten, 11.30cm, band

Birthdays

Mr John Alderton, actor, 57; Professor John Ashworth, Chairman, British Library Board, 59; Mr Rodney Bewes, actor, 60; Lord Bridges, former diplomat, 70; The Very Rev Edward Carpenter, former Dean of Westminster, 87; Mr Robert Dougall, television presenter, 84; Air Marshal Sir Eric Dunn, defence consultant, man, Press Association, 65: Lord Howard de Walden, racehorse own er and breeder, 85; Dr Kim Howells MP, 51; Miss Rosaline Kelly, journalist and publishing consultant, 75; Miss Verity Ann Lambert, film producer, 62; Sir John Maddax, writer, former Editor, Nature, 72: Baroness Mallalieu, QC, 52; Lord Nickson, chairman, Clydesdale Bank, 68; Mrs Margaret Parry, former Headmistress, Heathfield School, 78; Mr Alan Simpson, author and script-writer, 68; Mr Ernie Wise, comedian, 72.

Anniversaries Births: Anders Celsius, astronom and thermometer inventor, 1701; John Murray, publisher, 1778; Chaim Weizmann, biochemist and first president of Israel, 1874; Sir William Newenham Montague Orpen, painter, 1878. Deaths: Athanasius Kircher, Jesuit priest, scientist and inventor of the magic lantern, 1680; Ross McWhirter, Guinness Book of Records compiler, killed by the IRA 1975. On this day: William Shakespeare married Anne Hathaway, 1582; two women at Grantham, Lincoinshire, became the first police-

en, 1914; Velazquez's portrait of Juan de Pareja was sold at Sotheby's London, for £2.3m, 1970. Today is the Feast Day of Saints Barlaam and Josaphal, St Cungar of Somerset, St Fergus of Strathern, St James Inter-cisus, St Maximus of Riez, St Secondinus or Sechnall and St Virgil of

Lectures

Victoria and Albert Museums Sharon Fermor, "Sketchbooks and Sketching in Britain 1750-1900", 2.30mm. Royal Society, London SW1: Professor Joselya Bell Burnell, "Cosmic Explosions and the Creation of the

Said Business School (at the Examination Schools, Oxford): Walter Hasselkus, "The Strategic Development of Rover", 5pm.

Luncheons

The Oueen The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh yesterday held a lunch party at Buckingham Palace. The guests

Were:

Mrs Mangaret Hohrough (Principal and Chief Emoutive, Godalming Senth Form College's:
Mrs Rachel Lomant (Permanent Senettary, Weish Office); Mr Michael Atherton (Captain, England cricitest resm); Mr John Humphrys (Presenter, Today Programme, BBC Radio 4); Mr Alan Longhards (Chief Emousive, National Health Emousive); Mr David Newbiggling (Chairmano of Council, Massions to Seamen); Professor Russell Stammand (Professor Russell Stammand Professor of Physics, Open University); Sir Richard Syltes (chairman and chief executive, Glano Well-councille)

LAW REPORT: 27 NOVEMBER 1997

Invasion of privacy did not amount to molestation

A molestation order under section 42 of the Family Law Act 1996 should only be granted where there was some conduct which clearly harassed and affected the applicant to such a degree that the court's intervention was called for, and was not appropriate to prevent an invasion of the applicant's privacy by the publication of material which he feared might damage his reputation.

C v C: Family Division (Sir Stephen Brown, President) II November

The court refused the appli-

cant's application for a nonmolestation order against his former wife under section 42 of the Family Law Act 1996. The complaint giving rise to

the application was that the

People newspaper had pub-

lished an article which related to the marriage and relationship between the applicant and his former wife. A few days later a similar article was published in the Daily Mail, purporting to give details of complaints about the applicant's conduct made by two former wives

Richard Todd (Mills & Reeve, Norwich) for the applicant; John A Elvidge (Bennett Taylor Tyrell) for the respondent.

Sir Stephen Brown P said that as a result of the publication of those articles, the applicant had been granted an ex parte order in the following

It is ordered that the respondent wife, whether by herself or by instructing or encouraging any other person so to do, be forbidden to harass, pester or annoy the applicant, in particular: (i) by procuring or seeking to procure the publication of any account of the events which have occurred during the marriage of the applicant and the respondent in relation to their personal and/or financial allairs; (ii) by procuring or seeking to procure the publication of any information which is calculated to prejudice or otherwise adversely affect: (a) the determination by this court of the financial issues between the parties; (b) and/or the charitable] Trust of which the applicant is president.

The matter had now come before the court inter partes. The respondent submitted that there was no jurisdiction within the provisions of section 42 of the 1996 Act to grant a molestation order on the tacts of the present case.

There was no legal definition of "molestation". It was a matter which had to be considered in relation to the particular facts of particular cases. It implied some quite deliberate conduct which was aimed at a high degree of harassment

of the other party, so as to seek to impose what might be justify the intervention of the called a gagging order, or court. Endeavours had been

made to widen the concept of

molestation, but it did not include enforcing an invasion of privacy per se. It was significant that section 42 was to be general interest. The freedom found in Part IV of the Family Law Act 1996, which was concerned with the general topic of domestic violence. In this particular case, the marriage between the parties had been finally ended: they were quite separate individuals, and the material complained of factual account of matters was some alleged revelations by arded as her husband's

เกโร onduct. That came nowhere near mol :: ation as envisaged by section: 42 of the 1996 Act. The r ser application was a discharged. treived endeavour to

indeed to prevent the press from publishing information which because it related to somebody who was or had been in the public eye, might be considered to have some of the press was not directly involved in the matter, but it was in the background.

Furthermore, what was being sought was an interlocutory injunction in terms which were far too wide. It would embrace a purely being published whether or the former wife of what she not it was offensive or unflattering to the applicant. The present case was not one in which an order under section 42 could or should be made. The ex parte injunction was

- Kace O'Hanlon, Barrister

حكذا من الاجل

23/BUSINESS

BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR, JEREMY WARNER NEWS DESK: 0171-293 2636 FAX: 0171-293 2098 E-MAIL: IndyBusiness@Independent.Co.uk FINANCIAL JOURNAL OF THE YEAR

Half of English coalfield and 5,000 jobs at risk

Half the remaining deep mines in also been forced to accept a near 25 per England were under threat of closure last night with the loss of 5,000 jobs as RJB Mining, the UK's largest coal producer, prepared to close pits because of the slump in demand from electricity generators. National Power. RIB's largest customer, is halving its coal order next year. Chris Godsmark, Business Correspondent, reports.

The board of RIB, led by Richard Budge, chief executive, will meet on Monday to sanction a review of how it will match capacity with demand when existing long term coal contracts, negotiated before privatisation, expire next April. The company will draw up the list of pit closures, though sources denied that the first wave of cuts would come next week.

However, colliery managers have been preparing for closures, with industry experts suggesting at least six of the 17 RJB pits likely to close. Mines on the "at risk" list include all or part of the Selby "superpit", where output has shrunk from 12 million tonnes to less than 8 million as RJB hit a series of production problems. Selby also employs a high proportion of contract workers, which make up almost a quarter of the 9,000 strong workforce at RJB's deep mines.

Other pits facing possible closure include Calverton and Clipstone in Nottinghamshire, where workers would not be subject to the generous redundancy compensation agreed by the government for most mines at privatisation. Neil Greatrex, president of the Nottinghamshire Union of Democratic Mineworkers, said: "It looks at this moment in time like half the

pits in the industry will close." The drastic drop in demand for RJB coal from the big power generators was confirmed yesterday when National Power said it would buy just 18 million tonnes of coal from the group over the next three years. It compares with the 18 million tonnes it currently buys annually. RJB has

cent price cut, to around £1.15 a gigajoule.

The deal will see National Power buy 8 million tonnes next year, though this includes a 3 million tonne contact already announced. In the following two years the tonnage will drop to just 5 million tonnes. The agreement is the latest blow to the embattled RJB, which has concluded a deal with Eastern, the third biggest coal-fired generator, which would also see its order fall by half next year to just 4 million tonnes.

PowerGen, the second largest generator, has yet to conclude negotatiations but said last week that it could buy just two or three million tonnes annually from RJB, down from nine million this year. It means the group's total order book for its deep mines would slump from 30 million tonnes to 15 million tonnes or less.

David Price, from the industry journal Coal UK, said the National Power deal was a "disaster" for the industry. "Other people have spent a year and a half taking Richard Budge's business off him and he tried to stick out for a better deal. He's

The game of political brinkmanship between RJB and the Government escalated yesterday, when John Battle, the energy minister, told the Commons that the company had formally asked the Department of Trade and Industry for a subsidy. Mr Battle rejected the demand, telling MPs he did not "believe we should give a cash subsidy to a private, profitable company".

The RJB letter did not mention a specific sum, though the company believes a £35m annual grant over two years would be enough to save around 10 pits. The cash would encourage the generators to switch from buying imported coal, is some 15 per cent cheaper than RJB's prices for next year.

Mr Battle also announced that Clare Spottiswoode, the gas regulator, would be investigating claims that gas-fired generating plants built by the regional electricity companies were more expensive than coal. Ofgas, the gas watchdog, is expected to give details of the review next week. RJB has already complained to the European Commission about the socalled take-or-pay gas contacts agreed by the RECs after privatisation.

Outlook, page 25



Tony Greener, Guinness' chairman, faced an uphill battle to convince the increasingly irate shareholders at yesterday's meeting about the new title

Guinness' new name gets shareholder thumbs down

The US competition authorities are expected to sanction the £23bn merger of Guinness and Grand Metropolitan next week as long as the group sells Dewar's whisky and several other smaller spirits brands.

The news came as shareholders in the two UK drinks groups overwhelmingly backed the merger but not without vociferous complaints about its new name. Andrew Yates reports.

"[The name] Diageo is meant to explain giving pleasure every day everywhere. That could apply to a lot of things. Sexu-

disgruntled Guinness shareholder yesterday. "This new name is almost unpronounceable. When I first heard it I thought it was pronounced 'Dire go'. That sounds like a medicine to prevent some sort of un-

There was widespread condemnation of the Diageo name at the Guinness meeting yesterday afternoon to agree its merger with Grand Metropolitan. At an earlier meeting of GrandMet shareholders there was similar dismay at the choice of the new name.

mentionable stomach disease," he added.

One GrandMet shareholder said: "When I first heard the name I thought it was pronounced Die Ageo, which leads me to think of food poisoning. Why not have a good old British name instead of one that will be mispronounced around the world."

Tony Greener, Guinness' chairman, faced an uphill battle to convince the inal intercourse for instance. Maybe we creasingly trate shareholders. "You will still

should rename the group that," said one be able to buy Guinness, my favourite pint." A rowdy crowd was having none of it. After the Guinness board showed a video designed to explain Diageo it was met with shouts of "rubbish". Shareholders expressed concerns about the cost of finding a new name. When Mr Greener revealed that the bill was in the region of £250,000, one shareholder said: "That's childish. With all the brains on the board surely you could have

easily invented a silly name like Diageo." Not that the alternatives to Diageo were much better. The Independent can reveal some of the other names that Guinness and GrandMet considered for their new venture. It was close to choosing Carista, perhaps designed to conjure up images of a charismatic new food and drinks group. However, it had to give up the idea after it found that the name was already registered in several other countries around the world. It also rejected 'Cordica' because

it sounded too much like the name of Cordiant, the advertising agency.

However, the obvious distaste shown for Diageo the 400 or so Guinness shareholders who attended the meeting turned out to be nothing more than a side show. Mr Greener revealed that 97 per cent of shareholders who voted, backed the name change.

One Guinness shareholder raised concerns about the £700,000 annual salary Mr Greener received on top of bonuses such as subsidised lunches. "Why don't you and the board limit your greed so we get more money," he said.

City sources also confirmed yesterday that the creation of Diageo was due to receive the green light from the US Federal Trade Commission next week. However, the group is expected to have to give up Dewar's, North America's leading whisky brand and several other spirits. Diageo shares will start trading on 17 December.

UK sites could suffer in Korean cutbacks as Samsung retrenches

implications of the South Korean economic crisis were felt for the first time yesterday, as the giant Samsung Group, a big investor in the UK, announced a restructuring which will cut investment by about

The international

one-third. Richard Lloyd Parry in Seoul and Chris Godsmark in London report.

The company insisted that the brunt of the cuts would be felt within Korea and that the company would continue to expand overseas. But analysts believe that the weakness of the Korean won against foreign currencies, plus tough retrenchment measures likely to be prescribed as part of a bailout package by the International Monetary Fund, will have an inevitable effect on Korean investment abroad.

Samsung's senior managers will suffer 10 per cent pay cuts as part of the restructuring, travel and entertainment budgets will be cut in half, and the company will launch a "Saving One Trillion Won" (£689m) campaign designed, in the words of yesterday's announcement, "to capture the

employees worldwide in an effort to create a more frugal Samsung".

Next year 34 product lines will be shelved, saving 1.3 trillion won. The group did not announce how many jobs this will cost, but all of the Koreanbased businesses controlled by the group will be forced to elim-

core growth businesses, such as memory and non-memory semiconductors, telecommunications, automobiles and Samsung Corporation's retail business," according to the announcement.

Next year alone, investment will be cut from 8.2 trillion won to 6 trillion won.

Korean newspapers yesterday quoted government officials saying that they would generally "discourage" investment projects which require foreign currency funding, in an attempt to prevent any deterioration in the already stricken

Korea was forced to turn to the IMF after being driven almost to bankruptcy by the decline in the value of the won. which has drained the country's reserves and raised the cost of debt repayment to foreign banks. It has also driven up the cost of foreign goods and investment and, despite Sam-

imagination and support of sung's avowals yesterday, some analysts believe that a reduction in Korean overseas investments

The first thing the IMF is likely to say is that the government needs to slam the breaks on investment, and that will particularly effect overseas projects," said Richard Samuelson of SBC Warburg in Seoul. "The inate a layer of management. government could allow inter-The group will "focus on est rates to rise, and they could withhold permission for specific projects. Politically it's always easier to make these kinds of

> cuts abroad than at home." In the last four years, in conscious emulation of their Japanese rivals, Korean firms have invested heavily overseas. Half of their money has gone to Asia, much of it to low-cost manufacturing projects, and just onefifth to Europe. But 60 per cent of that total, about \$6.75bn (£4bn), has gone to Britain, the majority in the form of electronic manufacturing.

> Samsung has three UK plants on Teeside, two of which were opened in 1995 as part of a £450m investment programme. The group manufacturers microwave ovens, ating 1,400 jobs in the process. The British arm of Daewoo,

computer monitors and colour televisions and is thought to have so far spent £60m on its drive in the British market, cre-

another Korean conglomerate

which has invested heavily in the UK, claimed the crisis had strengthened its resolve to complete its investment programme. Daewoo is spending £15m a year building up its car design and retailing operations, with a base in Worthing, Sussex, employing 1,000 staff. Another business park in Worthing is planned to strengthen the

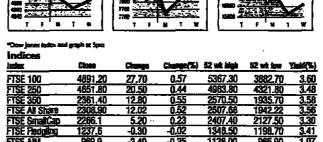
group's engineering facility. A Daewoo spokesman said the UK operations would move into profit "sooner than people are expecting." Daewoo also makes VCRs in Northern Ireland, while Hyundai has a Scottish microchip plant.

A year ago, LG announced the UK's biggest ever inward investment project, a huge £1.7bn semiconductor facility in Newport, Wales. The first stage of the investment, a computer monitor plant, began production a fortnight ago, with some 400 staff already employed.

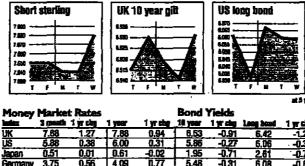
David Rowe-Beddoe, chairman of the Welsh Development Agency, said he saw no cause for serious concern from the Korean turmoil. "We keep close contact with them. Markets go up and down but I remain confident that the Koreans will continue to invest."

All these firms face drastic and painful changes, of which those announced yesterday by Samsung are just the beginning. Far East crisis, page 24

STOCK MARKETS



INTEREST RATES



MAIN PRICE CHANGES

CURRENC	ES	
\$/E	DM/E	7/E

D-Mark 2.9492 +1.82pf 2.5638 D-Mark 1.7613 +1.78pf 1.5229 213.21 -41.12

1,6740 -0.67c

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	*#15 MM	Class	Chg	Tr ngo		. Index		Yr age	الإلا أعياز
١	Brent OU (\$)	18.72	-0.37	22.49	GDP	113.90	3.80	109.7	Jan
,	Gold (\$)	296.95	-2.45	375.20	RPI	159.50	3.7	153.81	Nov
	Silver (\$)	5.24	-0.10	4.76	Base	Rates	7.25	6.00	
	www.blo	omber	v.com			SOU	ce: E	lloom	berg

Price (p) Dag (r) S. (Dage Falls

93.20 \$ index OTHER INDICATORS

London & Manchester 'in merger talks with rival'

lieved to have held merger to gaining their approval for the talks last week with Britannic, one of its main rivals in the life insurance business, according to

L&M yesterday refused to discuss the rumours. However, there was strong speculation in the City that a deal was in the offing, which pushed up L&Ms. share price by 5 per cent to 514p, valuing the company at £630m. Swinburne Johnson, L&M's company secretary, said simply: "It is company policy never to comment on takeover rumours".

According to the sources, Britannic executives have been consulting institutional investors which own substantial

London & Manchester is be- stakes in Britannic, with a view

City analysts yesterday said a merger between the companies, which both use door-todoor sales people to sell life insurance products, was a likely prospect in a sector that is undergoing rapid consolidation.

Britannic this year gained the sanction of the Department of Trade and Industry to assign "orphan assets" from its longterm funds to shareholders. The assets, which can be used as security to borrow money for a takeover, are now worth more than £1bn. Britannic is worth £1.95bn on yesterday's closing price of £10.06, up 9p.

We've been voted the best conqueror the 1997 Management Today 'Best UK Process' Yr April at Egen Change Yr Agril 1,6726 Sterling 0.5974 + 0.24p 0.5979 sacing brand of quality business paper. For datails of your nearest CONQUERGR stockist cail 0800 993300. Arjo Wiggins

Atlantic Telecom to extend 'wireless' telephone service

Atlantic Telecom, the fledgling operator of a "wireless" telephone service in Scotland, received a huge boost yesterday after the Government gave it approval in principle to extend its service throughout the rest of

Shares in Atlantic shot up 13 per cent to 146.5p as the company announced plans to roll out the service in selected Eng-

hish and Welsh cities. Meanwhile Ionica, which also operates a "wireless" telephone service but warned by severe capacity constraints, saw its ferent part of the radio spectrum and difshare tumble by a further 6p to 115p-less ferent software developed in Israel.

than a third of their value when the com-

pany floated in July.
Atlantic has picked up more than 10,000 customers since it began offering its service

m Glasgow 11 months ago. Analysts now speculate that the company will start op-erations in the north of England, beginning with Newcastle, Leeds and Bradford. The system works on the same fixed

radio access principle as Ionica, with telephone calls beamed from a box on the side of the house to a local base station and then last week that growth would be held back into the national network. But it uses a dif-

Graham Duncan, chief executive of Atlantic, stressed that, unlike Ionica, it did not intend to roll out a universal nationwide service but rather target particular urban regions.

It also operates a novel tariff structure whereby customers in Glasgow can telephone anywhere in Scotland for the cost of a local call. Mr Duncan said he expected to obtain the

necessary licences next year and begin rolling out the service in areas outside Scotland in the second half of 1998. The company is capitalised at £70m and analysis reckon it could mise up to £100m in debt finance.

Apec summit leaders announce crisis meeting to end Asian economic turmoil

The United States is soon to convene a special meeting of finance ministers to discuss the economic turmoil in Asia.

The plan was announced in Vancouver late on Tuesday at the end of the summit of economic leaders from the Pacific Rim, and - as Mary Dejevsky reports - it showed Washington's continued determination to resist pressure from some Asian countries for an 'Asian' solution to their problems.

the meeting would be held or which finance ministers would be invited, but its purpose is to discuss the rescue plan endorsed at Vancouver this week for the ailing Asian economies - and place it in a global context. It will also have the desirable effect for President Bill Clinton of the US of showing him as an international economic leader, despite his recent defeats on trade and international finance issues in Congress.

The meeting, as presented by the Americans, is intended to sustain the momentum built up at the Asia-Pacific Economic Co-operation (Apec) summit this week, and is in addition to next week's gathering of Asian and American finance ministers in Malaysia. It will have a double purpose: to show

that Washington takes the current instability in Asia seriously - despite President Clinton's earlier reference to it as just "a few glitches" - and to make plain the US view that national economies are all part of a single global system and should conform to similar standards.

This was spelt out in the of-

ficial declaration adopted by the 18 Apec leaders at Vancouver, which asserted the prime role of the International Monetary Fund in all economic rescues in Asia or elsewhere. "On a global level," it said, "the IMF remains central." But President Clinton, while pleased with the mood of co-operation at Vancouver, and with participants' support for further trade liberalisation, appeared to feel that the global approach need-

The rescue plans agreed so far for four Asian countries -Thailand, the Philippines, Indonesia and now South Korea - have a provisional price tag of \$68bn (£40bn), more than the Mexican bail-out three years ago and a record for the IMF. But they are not just IMF bail-outs.

The Apec summit also endorsed a set of principles, known as the Manila Framework after the emergency meeting of ministers and central bankers in the Philippines last week. They stipulate IMF involvement, provide for supplementary assistance to be granted regionally "when necessary", and also require recipient countries to commit themselves to whatever reforms may be needed to run their economies and finance systems on a sound basis.

was applied first to the Indonesia rescue, but it has now been elevated to a general formula to be invoked for other bail-outs. It does not, however, specify which countries might contribute to any supplementary financing, nor does

it stipulate any sum. The endorsement of the Manila Framework was hailed as the main achievement of this week's summit. Participants also tried hard to calm the volatile markets by insisting on the underlying strengths of Asia's "Tiger" economies and stressing the region's exceptionally strong prospects for continued groth. The defiant confidence of the formal declaration sat uncomfortably with the record rescue plan that was to use exports as the prime endorsed, and not all partici-

This three-tier framework pants were convinced that Asia's instability could be prevented from spreading.

The two-day meeting also exposed continuing friction between the US and Japan, both on bilateral relations and on an appropriate response to the current turmoil in Asia. President Clinton and other US officials made clear that they regarded Japan as "the key" to containing Asia's economic difficulties and wanted it to speed up its own economic recovery in the hope that it would provide a "locomotive" to assist growth in neighbouring countries. Fearing that economic turbulence in Japan could increase its trade surplus with the US, the Americans also advised the Japanese not stimulus for its economy.



Bill Clinton: The special meeting after Vancouver will aid the President in appearing as a world economic leader

Japanese leaders appeal for calm after another bank collapses

Japan's finance minister and the governor of its central bank made a joint appeal for calm yesterday, after the collapse of yet another small bank underlined the continuing fragility of the country's financial system. Richard Lloyd-Parry

Hiroshi Mitsuzuka, the minister of finance, and Yasuo Matsushita, the governor of the Bank of Japan (BoJ), repeated their promise to protect depositors after the small Tokyo City Bank became the third Japanese financial institution to collapse in less than a fortnight.

"We strongly urge the publie not to pay heed to irresponsible rumours and to act calmly," their joint statement said. "The stance of the Ministry of Finance (MoF) and the BoJ is that we will provide funds smoothly and without hesitation so that repayment of financial firms' deposits and other payments will not be

hindered." The demise of Tokyo City Bank, a small regional bank based in the northern city of Sendai, follows the collapse last Monday of the 10th-ranked Hokkaido Takushoku Bank and, three days ago, of the brokerage Yamaichi Securities. But the news had little effect yesterday on the stock market. which rose 3 per cent at one point to close up 178 points, or l per cent at 16,045.

Investors seem to be increasingly confident that the government will eventually use public funds to stabilise the financial system by providing loans to weakened banks which still have relatively sound business. Japanese finance houses are suffering a credit squeeze. caused by eroded confidence among foreign lenders.

Yesterday the credit rating agency Moody's Investors Serdowngrading the Long-Term Credit Bank of Japan. Nippon Credit Bank, and the three trust banks, Mitsui Trust, Yasuda Trust, and Chuo Trust.

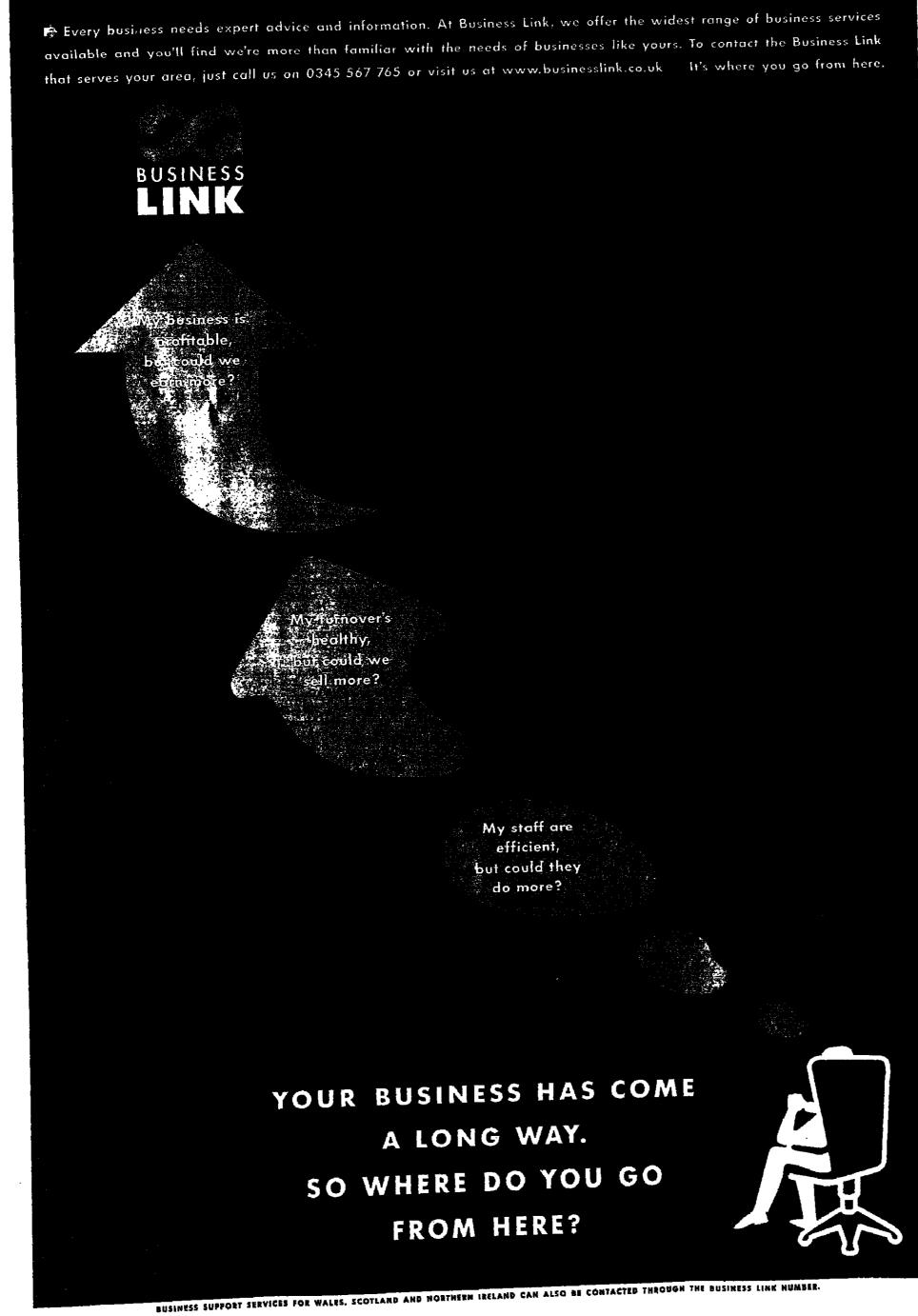
Ominous rumours circulated about other firms, and several shares in the financial sector were down sharply. Among the brokerages, Nikko Securities' shares went down, as did the smaller Taiheiyo

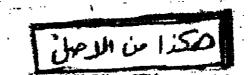
Securities. Daiwa Securities, Japan's second largest, held a press conference to deny market rumours that it had concealed off-the-books losses, a ploy which contributed to the demise on Monday of its competitor. Yamaichi.

The president of Nippon Credit Trust told journalists in New York that, contrary to rumours, his parent company, Nippon Credit Bank, had shown "marvellous" results.

The biggest institution to be the subject of rumours is Fuji Bank, the main creditor of Yamaichi Securities which, like the entire financial sector, is labouring under the burden of bad loans left over from the 1980s "bubble" economy.

	Turnover £	Pre-tax (EP\$	Dividend
Abacus Polar (F)	98.9m (98.4m)	10 Om (8 9m)	14.8p (13.5p)	6.0p (5.5p)
Arsprang Familiare (i)	41 7m (39.3m)	1 61m (2.52m)	4.04p (6.06p)	1.95p (1.95p)
Amber Industrial (I)	12.1m (11.9m)	1.7m (1.3m)	6 9 p (4 4p)	1.75p (1 75p)
Cathyna (I)	87.5m (86.3m)	1.27m (0.754m)	31.0p (17.3p)	5.5p (5.0p)
DBS Management (I)	72.5m (53.8m)	0.478m (2.73m)	0.6p (4.5)	1.4p (1.2p)
Hampson Industries (I)	68 2m (48 4m)	3.8m (2.7m)	21.5p (1.78p)	0 65p (0.5p)
Helical Bar (i)	61.0m (45.7m)	6.6m (4.36m)	1.67p (7.9p)	3.5p (3.15p)
Mild Kent Holdings (I)	21.3m (20 4m)	8.3m (4.9m)	36,8p (19.1c)	13.2p (12.0p)
Hursing Home Props (1)	11 Gm (3.5m)	3.2m (1.14m)	6.25p (4.44p)	6.25p (3.7p)
PERar Property (I)	26.6m (21.3m)	6.85m (3.19m)	3.5p (2.1p)	1.8p (1.6p)
Sauthern Electric (I)	799 4m (782.4n	n) 183.0m (1 12.2m)	17.9p (17.1p)	7.1; (6.45p)
Tate & Lyte (F)	4 6b (5.2m)	159.3m (276.3m)	22.8p (40.5p)	17.0p (17 0p)
Tiesley Rober (I)	28 3m (24 8m)	2.71m (1.81m)	4.8p (3.9p)	1 1p (0.9p)
Tribast (I)	37.5m (27 7bn)	4.04m (3.27m)	15.85p (12.64	p)3 75p (3.33p)
Vendêma Luxury (F)	693.1m (703.6c	n) 116.8m (113.0m)		





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OUTLOOK ON HIGHER CORPORATE TAXES. THE DEATH OF THE COAL INDUSTRY AND THE GUINNESS REPORT

Brown makes companies pay for tax reform

Gordon Brown's pre-Budget statement on Tuesday completed the redrawing of the corporate tax system that he began in July. Unfortunately, and despite the Chancellor's pro-business rhetoric, the net effect is to leave the corporate sector worse off, not better off, both in the short and long term. The abolition of Advance Corporation Tax, following the ending of tax credits on dividends in July, will leave Britain with a simpler structure and the lowest rate of corporate tax outside Scandinavia and Ireland.

Many interested parties had advocated these reforms, and the Chancellor's announcement has been broadly welcomed by everybody from the academics at the Institute for Fiscal Studies to business organisations like the CBI and IoD. The proposals even include a measure that will permit companies with surplus ACT to run it down as much as they could have under the old system, so none should be left high and dry by the abolition of ACT.

So how come the cheers are so half hearted? The abolition of ACT and the corporation tax cut announced on Tuesday will be combined with a switch in the timing of tax payments that will, over a four year transition period, bring them forward. The cost the coal industry to companies will be around £2bn a year for the four financial years to 2003.

The Treasury paints this as a temporary cash-flow hit that will enable business to have the kind of tax structure it has been asking for. This is disingenuous. It is, in reality, a temporary tax increase, a real, one off hit on the corporate sector of £8bn. The public finances look that much healthier for the four year transition period, but let's not

pretend that corporate cash flow does.

It is true that business will pay £2bn a year less in tax after the transition period. Regrettably, this does not offset the increase in the tax burden announced in July. The abolition of the dividend tax credit will cost pension funds nearly £4bn in 1998/99 and more thereafter. Companies will bear much of that burden in the short term even though future pensioners will carry it in the long term. Nor is this cash flow hit offset by the July cut in corporation tax, which knocked £1.4bn off next year's corporate tax bill. The bottom line is that for the next four years, British business will be paying £5bn a year more in tax.

Somebody has to pay taxes, and most voters would prefer them to fall on business than themselves. But the Chancellor cannot get away with his claim that these measures support business or help boost investment in the short term, even if he has set up a better long term structure for corporate taxation.

Kissing goodbye to

Closing down coal mines is a bit like working in them - dirty, dangerous and, as Michael Heseltine discovered in 1992, costly to political reputations. As New Labour prepares to finish off the job that Hezza began and dump what remains of the English coal industry on the slagheap, history looks like repeating itself.

John Battle, the Energy Minister, is the

Budge that he has no subsidy, no hope and no future. Yesterday, as he battled through his brief from the despatch box, he was joined by the Prince of Darkness, the Minister without Portfolio, Peter Mandelson - always a sure sign of trouble brewing.

If the Government is to preside over the closure of a third of RJB Mining's 17 deep mine pits and with them 5,000, perhaps 10,000, jobs, then Mr Budge wants to make sure the Energy Minister at least joins the

The Budge line is that it would only take £30m of subsidy a year to bridge the gap between what the generators are prepared to pay and the price be needs to keep his pits open. If the Government can find £400m to keep the pensioners warm this winter, then surely £30m is not much to ask to keep a whole industry alive. Alas this misses the point. Even if it were feasible to subsidise one producer in one section of the energy market, it would hardly serve the Government's wider agenda, which is to be seen as the clean man of Europe.

When Mr Blair jets off to Kyoto in three days time, he knows that the best way for Britain to honour its pledge to cut CO2 emissions by 20 per cent by 2010 is to jettison a large chunk of the coal industry. Quite apart from the nasty side-effects like mesothelioma and subsidence, coal is a big pain in the ozone layer and no amount of smart technology can make it environmentally acceptable at a price the market is prepared to bear.

New Labour is about to grasp the nettle and the result will not be edifying. But

hapless soul given the task of telling Richard if the run down of the coal industry can be achieved in a humane manner, then it will surely be worth the pain. It is not easy, particularly for a Labour Government, to say goodbye to the working class culture and traditions of this once mighty industry. But in truth, these things belong now more to a museum than the modern world. The time has come to let go. There are better uses for Government money.

The purpose of **DTI** investigations

The wheels of Whitehall grind exceedingly slow. It is almost exactly eleven years to the day that Department of Trade and Iudustry inspectors were sent into Guinness to investigate the Distillers takeover. Barring last minute hitches, their report on the affair should finally be published this

It is not entirely the DTI's fault that it has taken so long to make this report public. The criminal trials associated with the Guinness scandal were a real impediment to earlier publication, although it ought to pointed out that the last of these, the trial of Thomas Ward, the American lawyer caught up in the affair, ended more than four and a half years ago. Legal objections from participants in the affair have kept the report under wraps since then.

Even so, the public has every reason to wonder what the purpose is of these highly expensive exercises if they are to be published so long after all the lessons of the scandal have been learnt and acted upon. The original idea of having Companies Act investigations was so that the authorities could conduct a post mortem on a big business or financial scandal, take whatever regulatory action seemed necessary, learn its lessons and make appropriate changes in the law. A further purpose was to warn interested parties about those named and

By all accounts, this report makes fascinating reading and it still has the capacity to embarrass a number of people occupying high powered positions in the City and elsewhere. But all the other purposes have long since been and gone. The law has been tightened, the City deaned up and the main protagonists punished. As such the Guinness report is just an interesting piece of flotsam and jetsam from the mists of time. This is an eloquent chronicle of the corrupt and semi-fraudulent practices that were allowed to flourish in the City in the mid-1980s, but is the writing up of history really such a good use of the £5m of public money this report is reputed to have cost?

Here's the rub, for the Companies Act objective of DTI investigations was never the real purpose of the Guinness inquiry. The main job of the Guinness inspectors became not that of conducting a post mortem, but the collecting of evidence against the chief players so that the Serious Fraud Office could then prosecute them. This use of the DTT's powers of compulsion is now rightly regarded as an infringement of human rights and it has not been repeated since. This report closes the book on a piece of history in more ways than one.

Banks approve Eurotunnel's plan to restructure £8.7bn debt mountain

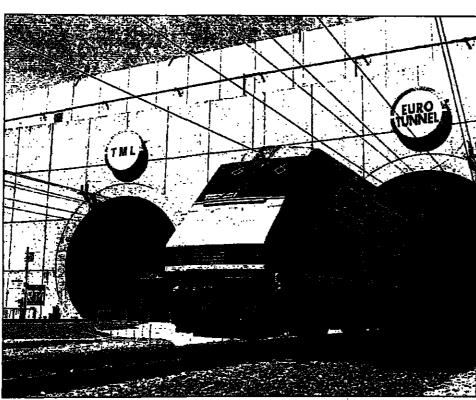
The Channel Tunnel operator Eurotunnel moved a step closer to financial survival yesterday after its banking syndicate unanimously approved the plan to restructure its £8.7bn debt mountain. Michael Harrison reports.

The 174-strong banking syndicate is expected to sign the formal refinancing agreement in January, paving the way for Eurotunnel to swap £2bn of its debt for equity in the spring. The restructuring will give the banks a stake of up to 61 per cent in the tunnel though existing shareholders could theoretically retain majority control through the exercise of two sets of warrants.

Eurotunnel obtained shareholder approval for the debtequity swap in July. Yesterday's approval from the banks only leaves Eurotunnel waiting on the British and French governments to agree the terms on which they will extend its concession by a further 34 years to 2086.

Patrick Ponsolle, executive chairman of Eurotunnel, said: "If shareholders are to gain the full benefit of the restructuring, the British and French governments should now make a final decision on the conditions under which the concession will be extended."

The two governments want a share of profits over the period of the extension and an undertaking from Eurotunnel



Eurotunnel: Still waiting for British and French governments to extend its concession

to increase freight traffic through the tunnel. But they are still divided on key elements of

The French have suggested that Eurotunnel give up 25 per cent of its extra profits. The British Government wants a bigger share of the pot than this and it also wants a concession from the French giving UK freight operators greater access to the French rail network.

Senior Eurotunnel executives said they were "guardedly optimistic" that agreement with the two governments would

"I do not see any insuperable obstacles," said one.

Under the financial restructuring Eurotumel will exchange £2bn of its debt for equity and equity notes at an issue price of around £1.25. A further £2.7bn of debt will be swapped for other forms of paper, reducing the stake of existing shareholders to 39.4 per cent.

At the same time Eurotunnel will issue new warrants to shareholders enabling them to take their holding back up to between 51 and 55 per cent.

be reached around Christmas. However, in order for the warrants to be exercised, Eurotunnel's share price has to more than double from last night's closing price of 62p.

The likelihood of approval from the lending syndicate strengthened markedly earlier this year after 20 per cent of the debt changed hands as a group of US banks moved in and a large number of Japanese banks bailed out. US banks now own a quarter of Eurotunnel's debts. The next biggest lenders are the French with 17 per cent of the debt.

Southern Electric considers further share buy-back

Shares in Billiton, the mining group recently demerged from South Africa's Gencor, slumped to a new low yesterday as the company warned that the Mr Gilbertson. deepening financial crisis in Asia were squeezing base metal prices and could hit earnings. The warning sent shares in

Billiton shares hit by warning

on base metal price squeeze

Billiton, floated at 220p in July, down 6p to 153.5p. The company had gone straight into the FTSE 100 in the summer when it was valued at £4.6bn.

Shares in Rio Tinto, the UK's largest listed mining group, also weakened, falling to a 730p low yesterday, before recovering to close 6p higher at 743p. Announcing the company's

first full-year results since the demerger yesterday. Brian Gilbertson, chairman, said the turnoil in Japan and South-east Asia, which are important markets for Billiton's base metals, could prove damaging.

He said although the aluminium market, more than half of the group's earnings, had held up well, the company had seen substantial declines in

spot prices for coal, nickel and ferro-alloys. "If this proves of extended duration, our earnings will not escape the impact," said

However he added: "Our businesses are at the low end of the production cost spectrum and soundly financed. We should thus be able to endure a period of adversity better than most."

Commenting as the company announced a 3 per cent rise in underlying profits for the year to June to \$335m, Mr Gilbertson said problems in Asia could lead to acquisition opportunities. Although around 70 per cent of the company's net assets are tied up in South Africa, Billiton is growing fast in emerging markets. The company has extensive exploration programmes in Latin America, Australasia and China.

Mr Gilbertson said the development of copper, nickel and zinc projects would be the priority and that he would like to buy an iron-ore deposit. -Sameena Ahmad Southern Electric, the sole surviving independent regional power company, said yesterday that it was "seriously considering" launching another share buy-back following the Chancellor's decision to abolish advance corporation tax in this week's Green Budget.

Ian Marchant, Southern's finance director, predicted that the abolition of ACT would end the recent vogue from the privatised utilities for complex capital restructuring schemes, designed to hand back cash to investors but avoid the tax charge associated with straight-

forward buy-backs. In February Southern returned £156m to shareholders through a share consolidation. Yorkshire Water and BG, the former British Gas, both followed Southern's lead this year. However Mr Marchant said he was disappointed that the tax change

would not take place until 1999. Southern also predicted a wave of consolidation in the privatised electricity industry if the Government allowed regional

power companies (RECs) to split their supply and distribution businesses. Jim Forbes. chief executive, said Southern had already been approached by other power groups.

"We talk to everyone. We have to look at these things but we can't say yet what will happen. This is still two years away," he said. Shares in Southern fell 8p to

447p yesterday after the group revealed a £9m drop in balf yearly profits, to £103m. Earnings from its non-regulated contracting businesses slumped from £7.4m to £1.5m, following a sharp drop in orders at its MP Burke subsidiary, which lays television cables. Southern said Cable & Wireless Communications, its biggest customer, had cut its investment budget overnight."

Mr Forbes also warned that Southern's supply business could lose money in 1999-2000, the second year of a new price formula which caps customer bills for the first time.

–Chris Godsmark

Rising trade gap suggests pound is starting to hit exports

Britain's trade has taken a turn for the worst. with the gap between imports and exports of goods climbing past £l bn. Diane Coyle, Economics Editor, asks

whether warnings of the strong pound damaging exports are coming true.

It has been the dog that didn't bark during this recovery. Despite a 20 per cent appreciation of the pound during the past 18 months, so far there has been no sign that the loss of competitiveness has damaged Britain's export performance.

Gordon Brown, Chancellor of the Exchequer, yesterday played down the risk to exports in. In an interview the Chancellor said: "There has been consistent growth in volumes by exporters and there will be considerable growth next year."

The Bank of England has similarly pointed out that trade has held up much better than anybody had expected.

But new figures brought the first signs of damage to ex-

port performance. The deficit on trade in goods doubled from £616m in August to £1.3bn in September.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) also published for the first time monthly figures for trade in services. This was in surplus by £700m in September, little changed from the previous month.

The total current account therefore shifted from a small surplus of £64m in August to a £552m shortfall in September.

The headline deterioration was exaggerated by erratic

moves, but underlying growth

in export volumes fell 0.6 per cent during the month, and slowed markedly between the second and third quarters. Export growth has slipped from 3.3 per cent in April-June to 0.6 per cent in the three months to eptember.

Perhaps the most telling indication of a darker outlook ahead came from figures for export prices.

After falling steadily since early 1996, they rose for the second month running. Although still 5.5 per cent lower than a year earlier they were up 0.4 per cent in September.

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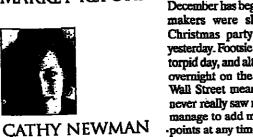






Freephone Time Now!

Offers End 29th November



Christmas party hangovers vesterday. Footsie had another torpid day, and although gains overnight on the Nikkei and Wall Street meant the index never really saw red, it didn't manage to add more than 44

-points at any time in the day. A muted performance on White House that Far Eastern turbulence would affect the economy in the States, did not companies have had somehelp matters. Footsie drew to a thing of a bull run this year. mediocre close, up 27.7 at 4891.2, though volume was higher than in previous days,

Oil companies saw a lot of the action after Goldman Sachs slashed its 1998 crude oil price forecasts. BP was the biggest Footsie faller, down

It seemed that, even before 38.5p to 808p, Lasmo dropped December has begun, market- 5.25p to 268.75p and Shell makers were sleeping off shed 2p to 418p, with 16 million shares traded.

Although Goldman's fore-

of the range, news later in the day that Deutsche Morgan Grenfell had also turned bearish added to the oil sector's woes. DMG downgraded its to 339.5p after accepting an 1998 profit forecasts for Shell. Wall Street during late after-noon, after a warning from the ever, written off by some observers as little more than a correction, given that the oil

The insurance sector was in demand yesterday. Marketmakers got out the blue pens with 830 million shares traded. after expectations that Generali may raise its bid for AGF, the French insurance group. Royal & San Alliance added 18p to 541p, and Commercial Union leapt 21p to 818p.

Manchester Group, the life as-fallers. It shed another op to surance company, soared 26p 115p. The group has now lost Although several analysts said casts had been at the top end it was unlikely there would be

any big acquisitions in the sector in the short term, dealers clearly thought otherwise. Redland improved by 4.5p improved £1.8bn offer from Lafarge. The move did wonders for the building material sector. Blue Circle led the Footsie climbers, up 13.5p to

would be the next building company to fall sent its shares up 9.5p to 301.5p. Ionica Group, the telecoms company which issued de-

to 514p on bid speculation. nearly three-quarters of its value since its flotation in July.

EMI also continued to decline, down another 13p to 457p, after disappointment with first-half results on Tuesday. By contrast, Boosey & Hawkes, the music publisher, which EMI is said to be inter-

Share Spotlight shara prica, pence 357.5p, and Aggregate Industries was among the best second division performers, up 3p to 50p. A feeling that Hanson lonica

pressing interim results last week, once again led the

Meanwhile, London & rogues gallery of second-line ested in buying, closed richer to the tune of 70p at 800p.

A rather larger publisher, Reed Eisevier, put on a spurt, adding 13.5p to 624.5p, despite press reports in Amsterdam that lawyers and tax specialists have complained to the European Commission about Reed's merger with Wolters Kluwer.

Still with the media sector.

BSkyB's shares recovered some of the losses sustained over the last five months. The Independent reported yesterday that it would refocus its marketing strategy following the departure of Jim Hytner. marketing director. BSkyB jumped 13.5p to 441.5p, and was helped along the way by a round of visits to institutional shareholders from Mark

Booth, the new chief executive. Far Eastern influenced stocks continued to rally yesterday, following the Nikkei's

178 point gain overnight. Standard Chartered bounced 21p to 697p, and HSBC improved

31p to £15.18. British Biotech added 7p to 110p after positive noises from Lehman Brothers. The company issued interim results on Tuesday.

Advanced Technology, the Ofex traded minnow, ended a penny better off at 25.5p after launching a new pager service.

But market-makers called time on Grand Metropolitan and Guinness, despite the fact that shareholders gave their official approval to a merger of the two companies. GrandMet weakened 11p to 557p, and Guinness eased 5p to 556p.

Monarch Resources, the gold mining company, was a third-line casualty. It fell nearly 30 per cent from 6.5p to 16p on news it is to cancel its UK

TAKING STOCK

Flextech, the cable and satellite programmer, is developing a travel channel which will allow viewers to make travel bookings via TV. Flextech will control 87.5 per cent of the venture, which has yet to be named. Harry Goodman, former head of the ILG travel group and Denis Stranss, joint founders of Marchrand will own the remainder. Flextech's shares remained unchanged at 566p.

OMI international, the engineering group, is starting to bounce after hitting a yearlow of 14p earlier this month. The company ended up 2p at 17p after Tuesday's £2.3m acquisition of Forty, Forty specialises in particulate control systems for the industrial processes and power station market in the States. OMI announces interim results on Tuesday.

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Provision knocks

source: Bloomberg

Lafarge, the French construction giant, vesterday bought a near 30 per cent stake in Redland to cement its £1.8bn bid for the distressed British building group. Andrew Yates believes the deal should herald a European shake-up of the construction industry.

Lafarge's agreed cash bid for Redland will lead to the departure of most of the British building group's top execu-

Paul Hewitt, finance director of Redland, is in line to receive a pay-off in the region of £500,000. Robert Napier, chief executive, stands to get £700,000 in compensation. However, it is still unclear how much Rudolph Agnew, the group's £150,000 a-year chairman, will receive, as he is not

on a two-year rolling contract. Lafarge is likely to embark on a wide-ranging shake-up of Redland's European and US construction operations, including disposing of some businesses, after virtually securing its £1.8bn bid for the group yesterday. According to industry analysts the takeover is likely to lead to some redundancies, especially in France where Redland's aggregates business has faced a torrid time.

Lafarge upped its 320p a share offer to 345p a share late on Tuesday night after a day of intense negotiations. It emerged yesterday that Redland, which had embarked on a break-up of the group designed to ward off Lafarge, realised it would not have been able to return all the disposal proceeds to shareholders before the middle of 1998.

Given the current uncertainty that is plaguing worldwide stock markets, Redland became increasingly concerned that it may not have been able to achieve a decent price for its European and US aggregates businesses. Faced with the possibility that its bid defence could crumble. Redland's board approached Lafarge with the aim of prompting a higher

Mr Napier said yesterday: "We had to evaluate what was best for shareholders. We decided that the longer term proinvolving the gramme liquidation of Redland's assets. taken with the uncertainty of the markets and perhaps the creation of a hit more value, was not the right option. We believe the 345p bid offered the best option.

Analysis believe Redland has been able to extract a reasonable price from Lafarge. One analyst said: "Redland has played a great game of

spoof. There was a lot of politics involved and it managed to get a decent price." Another source said: "The tactical threat of defence was more powerful than the implementation."

It is thought highly unlikely that any other building groups would try and trump the Lafarge bid. Redland believes the deal

will not be blocked by competition authorities in Europe and the US, a view backed up by City analysts. Kevin Cammack, building analyst at Merrill Lynch said: "There should not be a problem. The ageregates market is so fragmented. The only problem could be in France but given that the two groups were already looking to set up a joint venture there. then they must have checked this out already.'

Shares in the construction sector rose sharply yesterday on the back of the deal as City observers expected the move to mark a wave of consolidation.



Rudolph Agnew: The Rediand chairman and other top executives are likely to go as a result of the deal

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN EDITED BY SAMEENA AHMAD

It has been a difficult year for Tate & Lyle, the sugar and sweeteners group. It has been exposed to fluctuations and excess capacity in its key markets while margins on the group's core com-

Tate & Lyle may

modity product, high-fructose corn syrup, have been the lowest ever recorded. Given all this it was no surprise that the shares took a pounding in the summer when they lost 13 per cent of their

value in one month and the company

made an ignominious exit from the

Several analysts reckoned the stock was oversold then and it has duly bounced back to levels seen late last year. Yesterday's results provided further evidence that the company is on a stable footing and that the worst may

be over.

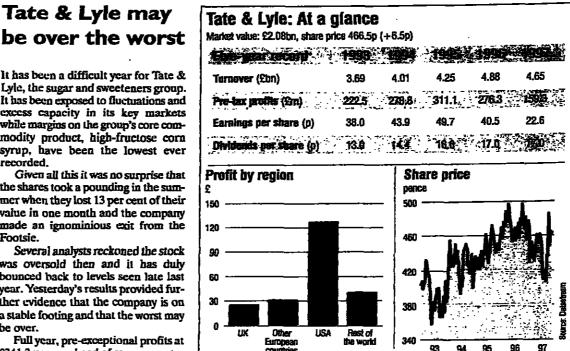
Full year, pre-exceptional profits at £241.3m were ahead of some expectations and the £82m of exceptional charges for restructurings and writedowns announced at the interim stage. The City is warming to the group's progress in shifting its sales mix towards added-value products and these highermargin products now account for a quarter of sales and are growing.

ness in the US was impressive, given the 20 per cent fall in margins caused by the drop in high-fructose corn syrup prices, new market entrants and oversupply. The US sugar business also did Pillar Property Holdings made a

The chief disappointment was Amylum, the European starch and sweetener group, where profits fell sharply due to currency factors and for £15.8m, spent £7m on imcosts were incurred in the \$500m investment in a new starch plant.

Management's strategy is to continue to expand in added-value areas, acre site for £15m with planning extend further into emerging markets permission for 75,000 square feet of while cutting the cost base in the core retail space right next to its existing US and European businesses.

Tate & Lyle is heavily reliant on the corn syrup which are decided in Janu- space. ary. Negotiations are active now and ancontract prices.



shares - 6.5p ahead to 466.5p yesterday - trade on a forward multiple of offices. 13. At these levels a decent share for the long term.

The performance of the Staley busi- Pillar thrives on retail parks

profit of £20m in just over two years when it sold the Metro Retail Park in Gateshead this week.

It bought the park in August 1995 provements and has now sold it for

Pillar has also just bought a five-Kinnaird Park and Edinburgh Fort locations. The acquisition creates a next year's prices for high-fructose single site with 700,000 square feet of

These are just the latest in a alysts say that as spot prices have been series of deals which has transformed slightly higher there is a good chance Pillar into a retail park specialist. In that these will feed though to next year's the six months since the end of March it spent £250m on acquisitions

On full year forecasts of £260m, the mostly retail parks, against £60m worth of disposals, most of them

> It now has 20 parks representing an investment of more than £400m. Chairman Raymond Mould claims retail parks are set to produce better than average growth in rents and disposal values than offices and individual stores.

Pillar's portfolio is currently yielding around 6 per cent, with plenty of scope for improvement as rents come up for review.

Its net asset value was just 188p a share at the end of September, but the brokers think it could reach 240p by the end of the current year and 280p next year.

On the back of this activity, profits more than doubled to £6.9m in the six months to the end of September

The improvement was not unexpected, and analysts are not immediately revising current forecasts of around £15.5m, equal to 7.8p of earnings, in the current year, and £17.5m, equal to 8.5p of earnings, in

But the shares rose 8p to 280.5p which values them on 36 times this year's prospective earnings and 33 times next year's. High enough.

Another side to nursing homes

It is ironic that while Care First is fighting for its life, AIM-quoted Nursing Home Properties, which yesterday announced a £38m, four for five fund-raising, is talking of recovery in the UK care home market as funding pressures within local authorities ease.

NHP, which buys homes and leases them back to operators on long, highmargin terms should be a big winner. Sale and leaseback arrangements, the norm in the US, are fast gaining popularity here.

UK nursing home operators are recognising that they are better at running homes than negotiating property deals. Capital costs of building are huge and mistakes costly. With banks restricting lending to around 30 per cent of capital costs, NHP offers an attractive alternative, providing 100 per cent of the finance.

Demand among the huge number of unquoted medium-sized nursing homes here which cannot easily raise money elsewhere is accelerating. NHP already has £100m of property deals in the first six months of 1998 compared to £92m in the whole of 1997 and a total property base of £170m.

The UK sale and leaseback market, currently worth over £450m, is growing at some £300m a year and with only one other real competitor in the UK, Principal Healthcare, NHP expects get around half the contracts.

Floated at 100p in February 1995, NHP has not been a stunning investment, underperforming the market by 6 per cent. However its shares rose 5p to 129.5p, a premium to the 125p a share placing price and a 6 per cent premium to the pre-issue net asset value

As well as good growth prospects. investors get a nice dividend yield around 7 per cent assuming current forecasts of an 8.6p dividend are

As well as a move to the main market, which will increase NHP's exposure, a new joint venture gives Lend Lease, the £7bn Australian giant, the right to a 15 per cent stake. Given Meditrust's 20 per cent stake, that could signal an eventual bid battle for NHP. Investors should take up the offer.

Vendôme ahead in jewellery boom

Vendôme, the luxury goods group best known for its Cartier and Alfred Dunhill brands, has increased half-year profits by nearly onethird, helped by strong sales of jewellery and watches. It also appears to have shrugged off the turbulence in the Far East. Nigel Cope, City Correspondent, reports.

Vendöme, which is largely Swissbased but is listed on the London stock market, said sales of jewellery were up by 46 per cent across the group with sales strong in Europe, the Far East and the Americas. Watch sales were also strong in all markets with the more expensive gold and jewellery timepieces selling

strongest Reporting a 30 per cent increase in half-year profits to SFr279.2 (£121.4m), Lord Douro, Vendôme's deputy chairman, said the group's sales in the Far East, had not been affected by the turbulence in the financial markets there. The region accounts for 38 per cent

of group sales. He added: "There is no evidence that group sales have been much affected by currency and stock market falls in the Far East. In a time of financial volatility there is not usually that much effect on the top end of the luxury goods market. There is a tendency to buy goods that retain their value."

Sales in Japan, which account for 16 per cent of group sales, have continued to grow strongly. However, Lord Douro said sales to Japanese nationals travelling elsewhere in the Far East had been hit. Sales in Japan had been "holding up" in November, Lord Douro said, though figures were not yet available.

Chloe, Vendôme's haute couture fashion label where Paul McCartney's daughter Stella is the chief designer, has performed well. Sales from the Paris show six weeks ago are significantly higher than the previous year." Lord Douro said sales from the show were not included in the group's half year figures and would have only a minimal impact on the next reporting period.

Lord Douro shrugged off criticism that Vendôme was poorly understood by the City, which had also urged the group to report on how its individual brands were performing.

The company is majority owned by the South African controlled, Richemont Securities. and was formed four years ago as part of the re-organisation of the luxury goods businesses of and Rothmans International.

Richemont, Dunhill Holdings

Provision knocks DBS profits

DBS Management, the network of independent financial advisers, yesterday saw its share price rise by 8 per cent despite a provision for pension misselling which ate up 90 per cent

of its pre-tax profits. The company said it had now devoted £4.5m to the cost of carrying out its review of mis-sold personal pensions. In September, the network was fined £425,000 by the Personal Investment Authority - one of the largest fines it has imposed.

The DBS network, which carries out compliance work on behalf of 1,844 firms of independent advisers, said it was now devoting substantial resources to the review and was paying a firm of management consultants to assist it.

DBS announced it was increasing its interim dividend by 17 per cent. This was despite the provision for mis-selling, which depressed earnings for 1997 to 0.6p per share, down from 4.5p. -Andrew Verity

Companies must reveal more about joint ventures

Companies will have to disclose in their accounts far more information about the joint ventures and other arrangements that they are increasingly using as the means of entering new markets as a result of a new accounting standard published today. In response to representations from such companies as British Aerospace and BP, which derive substantial parts of their business from such arrangements, the Accounting Standards Board has devised a new form of accounting - the gross equity method - that expands the existing equity method to show the venturer's share of its joint ventures' turnover, gross assets and gross liabilities.

Financial Reporting Standard 9, also requires the results of associate operations to be included in the investor's consolidated financial statements, and assets, liabilities and cash flows of other joint arrangements - such as one-off construction projects - to be included in their participants' individual and consolidated financial statements. -Roger Trapp

Liffe adds euro contracts

The London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange (Liffe) is to strengthen its product range to meet changing market needs in the run up to EMU. All short-term interest rate futures and options contracts now denominated in EMU currencies will be convertible into euros. In addition, Liffe is to introduce a new five-year gilts contract and will also allow "half-tick" pricing and "mid-curve" options in certain contracts.

Daiwa executives charged

Japanese prosecutors have charged three top executives from Daiwa Securities, the Tokyo-based brokerage, for allegedly making illegal payments to a corporate racketeer. Hiromatsu Sogame, a former Daiwa vice president, Takeshi Shimamura, a former managing director and Takeshi Nojima, also a former managing director, are alleged to have transferred 36.6 million yen (£171,000) to so-called "sokaiya" gangster,

Allied sells wine producer

Allied Domecq, the spirits and retailing group, has sold its Rhone wine producer, Gabriel Meffre of Gigondas, to a group of investors led by Bertrand Bonnet, currently Gabriel Meffre's managing director. Financial terms of the deal were not disclosed. Allied said the sale of the wine business, which has a net asset value of £1m, was in line with its spirits and wine strategy of focusing on core international brands.

US clearance for Zeneca

Zeneca announced that Zomig, its new migraine treatment, had been cleared for marketing in the US by the Food and Drug Administration. The company's shares, which had been depressed due to recent downgrades by analysts, jumped sharply to close at £18.27, up 39p.

Growth in US revised down

The US economy grew slightly slower in the third quarter of 1997 than first thought, according to official statistics released yesterday. GDP grew by an annualised 3.3 per cent over the third quarter, revised downwards from 3.5 per cent. But at 3.3 per cent, the economy's growth rate is still regarded as strong by economists.

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The flaws in Brown's moral vision



DIANE **COYLE** ON REPLACING BENEFITS WITH TAX CREDITS

This week's Green Budget made it absolutely plain that Gordon Brown's overriding mission is to make work available and to make work pay for the unemployed and those on low incomes.

The combination of the intended 10p starting rate of income tax and the introduction of a working families tax credit for the low-paid announced in Tuesday's statement forms a central element in the reform of the welfare state. Along with the minimum wage, they will ensure that people can support themselves rather than re-

lying on state handouts. The fact that this is a moral crusade rather than just a matter of getting money into people's pockets explains why the Chancellor appears so determined to ditch Family Credit, the benefit paid to low-income families, and replace it with an *earned income

tax credit" (EITC). There will be more details later today when the Treasury publishes a paper on the proposals. But the general idea of this import from America is that it is a tax rebate that work for it. The cost of adwould be paid through the ministration is an important is-PAYE system. The amount of sue in the design of taxation, the credit would taper off as the recipient's earnings rose.

It sounds a great idea. This is certainly what Ed Balls, the Chancellor's economic adviser, would have been told by his former teacher Robert Reich, the Labor Secretary during President Bill Clinton's first administration.

In the US, it was a great idea, because nothing like Family Credit existed there beforehand. The EITC was launched against the backa tax break, it commanded support from Republicans, and the cost does not fully show up as government spending.

Replacing Family Credit with an EITC in Britain is fraught with disadvantages. however. The Chancellor's made only by middle-class for a careful design. proposal is grounded in the highest of principles but it will run into all sorts of practical difficulties.

benefits system - which is, ironically, exactly the reason is superior. The Chancellor wants to get away from the noportant, Family Credit shows up as social security expendi-

its will not allow any expansion of the scheme. One catch is that tax is administered by employers, not the Benefits Agency. A familybased tax rebate will require employers to collect a lot of deother members of the household, not just the person who works for them, Not only is this intrusive - requiring companies to ask, for instance, whether

burden on employers. The Conservatives' attempt to introduce an EITC in 1985 was defeated in the House of Lords after vigorous lobbying by small businesses who did not and it cannot be side-stepped by pushing the cost on to

Just as bad, the switch to delivery via tax and pay packets would also give the Inland .Revenue a vast amount of new information about claimants. This information is currently held separately, by the Bene-There are clearly civil liberties all this personal information in one department - and its inground of a blank canvas. As: formation technology supplier, the American-owned corporation EDS.

> A tax credit based on household income would also require a return to joint taxation. The cent of the families thought to Chancellor has been known to dismiss this as an objection women, but he will find that even if that is true, abandonsake of a tax credit for low the case still needs proving - it Chancellor's moral vision.

delivering the money through unpopular with a key political the tax system rather than the constituency. This is one of the perils of having an all-male team drawing up welfare-re-Mr Brown thinks his proposal form proposals. Besides, joint taxation certainly reduces the incentive for the second person tion of handouts. Just as im- in each household (usually the woman) to work by taxing their first pound of income, and ture, and his own spending lim- would end up reducing labour supply.

Another gender-related objection is that Family Credit is paid almost entirely to women. Even though women are the main earners in about two fifths of low-income housetail on the financial position of holds, according to the Institute for Fiscal Studies, the tax credit will go to men in the other three-fifths. As the IFS showed in its analysis for The Independent yesterday, the proposed their employees are cohabiting working families tax credit - it is also a big administrative could be a straight transfer of money from women to men.

Perhaps Mr Brown is simply unaware how much this matters in households, especially when money is tight, and how much difference it can want to do the government's make it can make to the welfare of children. If so, he ought to make it his business to find out.

The outcry about his preelection notion of cutting child benefit for the over-16s should have warned him, though. It is certainly true that middle-class families gain unduly from child benefit because it is not means tested, but for the women who receive it, it is often the only money of their own they have. fits Agency, and is not shared. The distribution of income within households does matter, worries about concentrating and it is also a question of fairness.

> There are other practical US version of the working families tax credit has turned out to be riddled with fraudulent claims. About 110 per be eligible actually claim the EITC. This indicates the need

The weight of academic opinion is either against the ing individual taxation for the Chancellor's proposal or thinks der to give real force to the

The objections all hinge on earners would prove extremely has almost no supporters outside the Government. The advice from Treasury officials and other advisers, too, is to

tread cautiously on this. Mr Brown's office shrues off the criticism, however, by going back to the point that claiming a benefit like Family Credit bears the stigma of dependence. This Government wants people to feel that they have carned their money by receiving a proper reward for their efforts.

Indeed, the take-up of Family Credit is relatively low. But this probably has more to do with the mind-numbing administrative complexity of claiming it than with any sense of stigma. Switching from the iob seeker's allowance to Family Credit, and perhaps back to JSA if you lose your job, is a nightmare involving many forms and weeks of delay.

The Chancellor would do better to focus on streamlining the benefits than ploughing ahead with what will turn out to be a messy and unpopular switch for reasons that have more to do with intellectual purity than common sense.

If he wants low-paid jobs to be more worthwhile, he should just rename and expand Family Credit. After all, Family Credit was named Family Credit rather than Family Benefit or even Family Handout for precisely that reason.

The two measures achieve exactly the same object, but one of them is already working, while switching to the alternative is going to anger and alienate millions of people. It is hard to shrug off the suspicion that the only reason for replacing the existing Family Credit questions too. For example, the scheme is the fact that this would need an increase in the social security budget, a cost that could not be hidden as a change in the forecast of tax revenues in the public sector accounts.

> The paper from the Treasury today will have to answer a lot of hard questions about the merits of the proposal in or-

PEOPLE & **BUSINESS**

IOHN WILLCOCK



Congratulations to UBS, which carried off the prizes for best sales service and best marketmaking in the 1997 Extel survey of the smaller companies sector yesterday. UBS may have its problems at the moment, but it still managed to wrest the sales service prize from last year's winners Cazenove, and marketmaking from Merrill Lynch. Caz still got two prizes, for best dealing ability and corporate activity. Dresduer Kleinwort Benson scored for best research.

The fund managers polled by Extel voted Charterhouse Tilney the most improved brokers in terms of sales service and dealing ability, while Williams de Broe came first for most improved research.

For the first time this year smaller companies themselves had the chance to vote for best brokers' analysts, which went to Philip Meredith and his team at DKB. The companies also voted David Warnock and Aberforth Partners the best fund managers.

Jonathan Fry, the self-assured managing director of Premier Asset Management, had to fly out to Luxembourg this week to reorganise some unit trusts he's just bought from Brewin Dolphin Bell Lawrie, the private client stockbrokers.

The otherwise successful trip was marred by a seemingly endless delay to the flight back from Luxembourg Airport, due to thick fog. Mr Fry was informed, with a certain note of pride by a local, that "the foggiest place in Europe is Luxembourg, and the foggiest place in Luxembourg is the airport".

The Luxemburger explained that the airport had first been built by the Germans during the Second World War. The story goes that when the Germans asked the local authorities where was the best place to build an aerodrome, the locals suggested the foggiest, murkiest part of the Duchy, in the hope that the German planes would subsequently plough into the nearest ditch. How paradoxical that Mr Fry should fall foul of their plotting 50 years later.

Halifax, the recently converted high street leviathan, is attempting to put a bit of fizz into its performance by poaching a marketing director from Pepsi Cola. Philip Hanson will join the former building society next February as general manager, marketing. Mr Hanson is currently managing director, Europe, for Tricon Restaurants International, which until October was part of the Pepsico Group.

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The chaps at Cater Allen took a day off banking on Tuesday to deliver a racehorse to an art gallery in Mayfair. Relax, the horse wasn't sawn in half à la Damien Hirst. James Barclay, chairman of the private bank and financial services house, was on hand to supervise the arrival of a life-size bronze racehorse at the Tryon and Swann Gallery. It's the work of Philip Blacker, a former steeplechase jockey and a leading equestrian sculptor.

Mr Blacker rode in nine Grand Nationals so he knows a bit about horse flesh. His sculpture of Red Rum was unveiled at Aintree in 1988 and his statue of Desert Orchid greets arrivals at Kempton Park.

His recent work embraces other members of the animal kingdom, including a giraffe, a pig and a lion with its foot on a tortoise (symbolic, I gather, but I'm not sure of what).

The Economist's collection of forecasts, The World in 1998 has just thumped on to my desk simultaneously with a book by an American business consultant which claims that the vast majority of forecasts are bunk.

William A Sherden's highly entertaining book, The Fortune Sellers: The Big Business of Buying and Selling Predictions, takes a baseball bat to, among other people, economists, market gurus, fund managers and weather

forecasters. "Each year the prediction industry showers us with \$200bn in (mostly erroneous) information," writes Mr Sherden. Yet these highly paid people routinely get it wrong, he says. Recent events the "experts" failed to predict include the 1987 stock market crash and its subsequent recovery to record highs; the entry of women into the workforce in massive numbers; the fall of communism in Eastern Europe; the Gulf War; and all recessions,

including the crash of 1929. None of this worries The Economist, which has puts its collective neck on the block with a whole slew of predictions for 1998, including: cheaper gas and electricity bills, with a 6 per cent cut in leccy bills from April; a puritanical Europe-wide ban on tobacco advertising and sponsorship; Daimler Benz and Siemens leading a stampede to adopt the euro into their accounts; and the world's population growing by 81 million to 5.93 billion.

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29/RACING

CYCLING

Prutour aims

to attract top competitors

With a £100,000-plus prize

fund aimed at luring Tour de

France strength competition,

the nine-day Prutour was

launched yesterday, filling a

gap left four years ago by the

loss of two major British races.

first to sign up for the 23 to 31

May race from Stirling to the

London home of the spon-

sors, the Prudential. "With the

Tour de France five weeks lat-

er, the Prutour is perfect

preparation for me and its

timing should encourage some

of the biggest teams to come,"

The Prutour controller,

Alan Rushton, is already ne-

gotiating with the world's top

10 professional teams who

form the bulk of the Tour de

France challenge. He plans

that the 18 teams, each com-

prising six riders, will also in-

clude squads from Olympic

countries. The £100,000 prize

fund is the biggest ever offered

in British cycling.

he said.

Chris Boardman was the

Suny Bay's run rests on Brooks' walk

The trainer Charlie Brooks, unhappy with the state of the ground at Newbury, walks the course this morning before deciding whether to run Suny Bay in the Hennessy Gold Cup on Saturday. Richard Edmondson reports.

Charlie Brooks is as much enamoured with the terrain at Newbury as Dr Foster was with the surface at Gloucester. The trainer of Suny Bay, the shortening favourite for Saturday's Hennessy Gold Cup, will walk the course at 11.00am this morning to determine if he will allow his precious grey to dig his heels into the filthy Berkshire earth. The clerk of the course, Richard Pridham, will be at his side and the conversation may well be stilted.

Charlie walked the course last week and was not best pleased at the results of his examination. He felt the ground was suitable for caterpillar

tracks, but a tad dangerous for mer Limited Handicap Chase at fragile racehorses. He did not Haydock recently. The looks keep this idea to himself. In particular, the Lambourn man found the ground inconsistent and certain areas so hard that it was like landing in rubble. "We've had a monsoon here for the last 10 days but it's still only good ground and it would normally have been good to firm," Brooks said yesterday. "More importantly, the take-offs and

landing were very firm."

The recent deluge, though, has advanced the idea of Suny Bay's participation. "At the moment it's good ground on the chase course and we haven't got drying conditions, so the vibes this morning are that he will run," the trainer added, "but, hopefully, what will come out of this is a review and a 12-month plan about how the course should be maintained."

If Suny Bay becomes an absentee, it would certainly demean the Hennessy as a contest. The eight-year-old, the Grand National runner-up, looked swollen both in size and musculature when he reappeared gloriously in the Edward Hanwere not deceptive.

The grey's extravagant victory excited none more than the bookmakers, who confirmed him as the Grand National favourite. He is also a bestpriced 16-1 for the Cheltenham Gold Cup. Brooks himself has not been swept along in the torrent of enthusiasm. "Everybody else might be talking all sorts of races for him but I'm not," he said, "All I believe is that the horse is improved, and he appears to be a better horse at home than he was last year.

"I think it is going to be a difficult race for him to win. A horse like Time For A Run is going to be very difficult to beat off 10st. It wouldn't surprise me if we won, but then I also wouldn't be surprised if something off a low weight came and beat him. You hope for everything and expect nothing."

There was increased hope also about the Hennessy participation of another of the topweights yesterday when Coome Hill, the victor 12 months ago, satisfactorily ne-



Suny Bay (right), pictured winning at Haydock, is favourite for the Hennessy

Photograph: Phil Smith/The Sporting Life

gotiated a piece of work in Cornwall. The former hunterchaser pulled a muscle and knocked out a vertebra on his seasonal reappearance behind Banjo at Cheltenham earlier this month, but now appears ready to be discharged from the sick bay. "Coome Hill worked well today and we might have plan all along."

a try on Saturday," Walter Dennis, the trainer, reported, "He surprised me quite a bit when he worked. It was more of a test and it was heartening. I'll see how he is overnight and if he's okay, I'll give him a go in the morning. I hope I can get him there as this has been the

Paul Nicholls will wait until tomorrow before confirming if his Belmont King runs. "Tve got a feeling the ground will ride on the slow side of good, in which case my intention is to run, but I will wait until Friday to make a final decision," he said yesterday. William Hill expect participation, shortening Bel-

FORM GUIDE

SERENDIPITY did not show much for Rod Milman this year. However, he did begin to that his form towards the end of the season, finishing third of 18 at Salisbury and fourth of 19 at Ponetract, and has since joined Martin Pipe. Lombandle is running well and failed by a neck (although greatly flattered by that mergin) against odds-on Lady Rebecca at Chellenham (2m 5f) last time. He has a leading chance despite dropping back in thir. Two To Tango lended a course and distance nowice hurdle by a length and quarter from Not For Parrot last time and should go well. Fresh Fruit Daily, runner-up to Fushen Relder at Market Rasen bat season, should be resonably fit having run on the Flat on 20 September. Hays Ye Kafash last ran over timber two years ago. He scored time times on the Flat last year and had a run at Newbury in September. Strong Choica, a bumper and Flat winner in Instand, was well besten behind Trutchev at Cheltenham on his debut in this country but is capable of better.

3.25 MENDIP PLYWOOD HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) 26,500 added 3m Penalty Value £4,554

99 40.
BETTING: 3-1 Foodbreker Star, 7-2 Mammy's Choice, 4-1 Crown Equatry, 11-2 Tury Of Peace, 8-1 Equity Player, Chickshiddy, 14-1 Steeple Jack, 16-1 Julibreatur, Space Cappa 198: Duhallow Lodge 8 11 10 B Ferson 7-2 (C Berwell) 5 ran
FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

MAMMY'S CHOICE makes most appeal in a difficult race. Robert Ainer's numer is still rather high in the handicap having won his first two starts at Plumpton lest season but did manage some decent efforts behind Lance Armstrong at Sandown and Red Branch at Newbury in the spring. Mammy's Choice has performed creditably in two starts this season, finishing lourith to Black Church at Plumpton and second to Fisked Oats at Forstwell. With rain around, he should have the ground to suft Foodbroker Star is a smart chaser on his day, as when winning at Lingfield last year, but he disappointed twice subsequently and was a faller at Cheltenham on his return in Manor Misch; race. He needs to bush up his jumping. So does Tug Of Peace, who has unseated twice from his last three starts, most recently in Dom Semourals Newton Abbot race. Crown Equerry gave title encouragement on his return behind Absyard at Exeter, white Equity Player was pulled up behind Oomahe De Pron after an absence since March. Space Cappa showed noth-

3.55 WALNUT HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,150 added 2m 3f 110yds Penalty Value £2,938

2211 31 11 DyClis Petratry Value 12,938

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12543 FRONTIER FLISHT (7) (CD) (G F Edwards) G Edwards 10 10 2 _____ D Salter (5) B
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1-P234 GAME DE EMMA (22) (C) (an M McGreedy) J Malins 6 10 0 ______ A Batter (5)
0-064P ROSIG-B (5) (C) Oks J Warrej) L Wester (7) ______ M Griffiths (7)

Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weighst: Game Dillerung Scr Sib., Rosie-8 9st Sib. BETTING: 5-2 Frontier Flight, 11-4 Sem Rockett, 5-1 Bon Voyage, 6-1 Deahing Dollar, Steepti 10-1 The Minder, 14-1 Semo Dillerung, 33-1 Rosie-8 1986: Rosd To Aun Bon 6 10 2 B Powell 14-1 (R Balser) 8 mm

FORM GUIDE

he De Pron after

ing in three starts last season and is making his reappearance, while Chic lack and Jalibrashiar are out of the handings. Selection: If

286-F POODBROKER STAR (11) (27) Food Brokers Lid J Gliford 7 11 10_ PSFP-5 CROWN EQUENTY (23) (3) (Robert Ogden) P Microlle 7 11 10_ 21/P.P EQUITY PLAYER (28) (3) (The lars S Parineship) R Curils 12 11 7_ 3-5.151 TUG OF PEACE (9) (P Richardson) G Baking 10 11 3_ 22/P-12 MAMBAT'S CHOICE (17) (2) (Dead Young) R Ainer 7 10 8_ 11/D4P - SPACE CAPPA (260) (C2) (D G Stephers) Mas V Stephens 8 10 2_ 21-SD CHECKABODY (19) (C) (G F Edwards) G Edwards 8 10 0_ F2P-53 JALLEREAKER (14) (The Jay Parineship) B R Milman 10 10 0_ -9 declared -sinum weight: 10st. True handisep weights: Chickabiddy 9st 8th., Jailbreaker 8st 4th.

mont King to 12-1 from 20-1 yesterday.

A definite runner is Martin Pipe's Eudipe, who finished well behind Suny Bay at Haydock when blinkered. "They just did not seem to work," the trainer said, "So we will leave them off on Saturday and hope for the best."

Boardman has his ambitions for the Prutour. "It is a big responsibility riding before your home crowd, but I will be trying to win."

Prudential, who will sponsor it for four years, are also backing an international women's race on the final day over a one-mile circuit starting and finishing outside their Holborn offices. That also will be the course for the last stage of the Prutour, which will cover more than 830 miles.

British cycling was left without a major stage race after Kellogg's ended its backing of the professional tour of Britain in 1994 - a year after the Milk Race ceased following a 36year sponsorship.

year sponsorship.

PROTOUR ITINERARY: 23 May: Stirling: Prologue time trial (2.6 miles). 24 May: Edinburgh to Newcastle-upon-Tyne (30 miles). 26 May: Geteshead to York (112 miles). 26 May: Manchester to Elackpool (111 miles). 27 May: Chester to Nottingham (20 miles). 28 May: Straingham to Cardiff (124 miles). 29 May: Bristol to Reading (98 miles). 30 May: Chessington to Rochester (100 miles). 31 May: London: Circuit race (50 miles).

Robin Nicholi

SAILING

Fischer's icy experience

Chessie Racing sailed into Fremantle yesterday "disappointed" with her sixth place in the second leg of the Whitbread Round the World Race.

Mark Fischer's boat had been second in the nine-strong fleet at one point and he blamed the drop in performance on a collision with "something very

large, but not hard". Fischer, a Whitbread novice, was full of respect after his first trip through the challenging Southern Ocean. "The ocean is bigger and better than you will ever be," he said. "It was pretty exciting stuff. It was so cold it makes your teeth hurt."

Chessie will be seventh overall after today's arrival of Grant Dalton in Merit Cup. That will leave just Christine Guillou and the all-woman crew of EF Education, and the Dutch entry, Brunel Sunergy, still to complete the 4,600-mile leg from Cape Town.

From Cape Town.

Whiteract Sounds. Cape Town to Frentantie: Finished: 1 Sweden Metch (Swe) G Krantz 15 days 13th 45min 23ec. 2 Innovation Kraemer (Nor) K Frostad 15:22-02-35; 3 foeliba (US) P Standbridge 18:06-27:12: 4 Skik Cut (SR) L Smith 16:15:05:08; 5 EF Language (Swe) P Cayard 18:20-07-25; 6 Cressis Recring (US) M Fischer 17:11-51-47. Skill to finish: 7 Merit Cup (Monaco) G Dellon 191 miles to go; 8 EF Education (Swe) C Gellou 284; 9 Brunel Sunergy (Neth) H Bouscholle 964. Standlings: 1 innovation Kvaemer 207; 2 EF Language 197; 3 Skik Cut 198; 4 Sweden Metch rige: 1 Innovation Knarrier 207; 2 EF Language 197; 3 Sik Cut 198; 4 Swedish Match 191; 5 Toshiba

Stuart Alexander

TODAY'S FIXTURES Football GROUP C Dysamo Klev v PSV Enghoven (AD) (AT CHESTO CBY).
ANON INSURANCE COMBINATION First
Divisions: Norwich v Watlord (7:30).
THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP First-round
replay: Bristol Rovers v Swindon (at Cleveice hockey EXPRESS CUP: Cardiff Davis v Neucastie Cobras (730). SUPERLEAGUE: Beautystoks Black v Brack-nell Bees (730). Other sports SNOOKER: UK Championship (Pr

Martha's Son TAUNTON on the mend

Hopes rose yesterday that the injury Martha's Son suffered at Huntingdon may not be so bad

There had been worries that the 10-year-old might never run again after he was pulled up with a suspected crack in his near-fore in the Peterborough

as first feared.

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Chickabiddy (Taunton 3.25) NB: Sounds Lke Fun (Taunton 2.55)

Chase on Tuesday, but X-rays have failed to find any bone damage.

However, Forster's bad luck continued at Chepstow yesterday when Edmond and Donjuan Collonges fell in their respective races - the latter fa-

RESULTS

CHEPSTOW

12.50: 1. STRONG TEL (A P McCoy) 5-1;
2. Ivory Coaster 6-1; 3. Regal Absence 6-1
16 ran. Evens fev Edmond (left), 13, 9. (M
Plos. Wallington), Tota: £50; £180, £180,
£200, DF: £26.70. CSF: £32.91. Trio: £22.01
1.20: 1. MCONTRAKERTS MIRAGE (P Holey) 7-2; 2. Quiet Momenta: 12-1; 3. Roll Again 12-1; 12 ran. 100-30 fav Goldian Lily
6th), 22. nk. (D Essecrit, Writhcombe).
Rote: £400; £160, £250, £3.70. DF: £4530.
CSF: £8060, Trio: £1170, NF: Soprisa.
1.50: 1. LARRYYS LORD (T J Murphy) 5-1;
2. Peta The Paracos 3-1; 3. Pleabartey Place
2-1, 6 ran. 13-8 fav Coriuan Collorges (ref).
Disg. 10. (P Nichols, Shepton Mallet), Tota:
2-20; £240, £170, DF: £1050, CSF: £1923,
2-20: 1. NAME OF OUR FATHER (A
Mequire) 5-4 fav; 2. Benny felf Lad 9-2; 3.
Deymilar 5-1, 9 ran. ½, £2 (P Bowen, Haver-fordwest), fats: £230; £100, £140, £160, DF:
2300, CSF: £722, Tricasi: £1976, Trio: £590,
2.50: 1. LAKE KARIBBA (T J Murphy)
evens fav; 2. Romancer 3-1; 3. Dunnalcics
Vient 50-1, 4 ran. 29, dist. (P Nichols, Shepton Mollet), Tota: £170, DF: £180, CSF: £431,
Only three Brisshed.
3.20: 1. IRSH BANKER (AP McCoy) 6-4;
2. Jet Babs 7-2; 3. King On The Run 1-8
fav, 9 ran. ½, £1 (M Pipe, Wellington), Tota: £520,
£100, £100, £150, DF: £180, CSF: £585,
Fino: £190,
3.50: 1. KENTISH BARD (C Liewellyn)
7-1; 8 ran. 13-8 fav Kinnelratia (4th), 3½, 7.
(N Gasslee, Upper Lambourn), Tota: £680;
£130, £200, £180, DF: £2240, CSF: £3375,
Place & £4598, Place S: £126.
WINDSOR **CHEPSTOW**

WINDSOR

Place 6: 6:558. Place 5: C126.

Place 6: 6:559. Place 5: C126.

VINDSOR

12.40: 1. LORD OF THE RIVER (JA McCerty) 7-2: 2. Missize Therapy 16-1; 3. Father Henry 7-2. 16 ran. 3-1 fav. Storm Forecast (4th) 7. 3/h. (O Sherwood, Upper Lambourn). Totae 58:00; 6:120, 5:40, 5:250.

DF: 52:850. C5F: 58:00: filto: 5:8703.

1.10: 1. MAD HARRY (Mr Rivintary). 11-10 far. 2. Missize Empty 7-1; 3. Dascante 33-1.

15 ran. 9. 2/h. (K Bailey, Upper Lambourn). Totae: 5:00: 5:40, 5:250. DF: 5:00:0.

CSF: 52:22. Tric. 5:45:0.

1.40: 1. EKGLIS (M A Fitzgeraid). 5-1; 2. Bly's Hambourn 6-1; 3. The Hambourn 6-1; 12 ran. 10-30 fav. Laughing Forbains fail. 22 ant. 10-30 fav. Laughing Forbains fail. 12 ran. 50-30 fav. Laughing Forbains fail. 12 ran. 10-30 fav. Laughing Forbains fail. 11 ran. 5-2 fav. Swindon, CSF: 53804. Tric. 5310, 14-3; 2. Wure Fallow 3-1; 3. Browloadhy 9-1; 11 ran. 5-2 fav. Sursum Corda (4th). 14-5. (N Henderson, Tric. 2530.

2.40: 1. ERSIENDLY KNIGHT (R Johnson). 10-1; 2. Lobster Cottage 5-2; 3. Nestwille Star 9-2, 7 ran. 8-3 fav. Whote Dosey (4th). 14-1. 14 ran. 3-1. (N Engles CSF: 5340. Size, 12-10. 14 ran. 3-1. (N Engles CSF: 5340. Text. 20. 15-20. DF: 5280. CSF: 5248. 14 ran. 3-1. (D Elsworth, Whitcombe). 10-4. 14 ran. 3-1. (D Elsworth, Whitcombe). 10-6. 14 ran. 15 ran.

because at tog.		
THE INDI	SERV 26	ICES +
UTTOXETER	971	981
CARLISLE	972	982
TAUNTON	973	983
0891 2	61 9	<u>/ ' </u>

The meeting at Hexham was abe

HYPERION .25 GUTTERIDGE (nap) 2.55 Serendiplty 1.55 Circle Of Magic 3.25 Foodbroker Star 2.25 Thursday Night

23; remainder free.

■ LEADING TRAINERS: M Pipe 38-181 (199%), P Hobbs 22-95 (23.2%), R Hodges 15-167 (12.2%), Mass H Knight 7-38 (25%), N Henderson 7-32 (21.5%), P Micholar 7-76 (22.5%), P Micholar 7-76 (22.5%), P Micholar 7-76 (22.5%), P Micholar 7-76 (22.5%), D Bridgerster 15-86 (17.4%), T Descombe 10-84 (19.5%), B Powell 7-112 (3.3%), G Supple 5-25 (24%), G Tormey 6-42 (44.3%).

■ FAVOURITES: 140-380 (36.8%).

BLENKERED FIRST TIME: Afficionado (1.55), Grown Equerry (3.25).

put back to hurding at Hereford test week, pessing course make activatings of this setting hurdis. He is due to go up 116 in future heraficaps and can take activatings of this good mark. Gutterlege made much of the numbing at Hereford and similar forcing factics will work well round here. He is likely to be taken on up front by Northerm Drome, whose winning run of four few over course and distance) came to en end at Chelterham 13 days ago. He finished '12h of 14 to Thutchev in a valuable novices' handicap, 30 lengths behind Pride Of Kashmir. Northern Drume has dropped 3to but is still 7to higher than when gaining a hard-fought win in an ordinary Stratford race previously, while the signs are that Pride Of Kashmir, although only 3to higher than when winning here (2m 3f) test month, also has enough weight. out back to hurding at Here

1.55 MAPLE SELLING HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,375 added 3YO 2m 1f Penalty Value £1,784 385 ARCIONADO (10) (Mrs C.J.Cole) R Hodges 10 10...

0	DIGETIAL OPTION (10) (Inthebing Ltd) J Spearing 10 10
	GUNNERS GLORY (P34) fan Blekey) Mrs I. Stubbs 10 10
	ISLAND PRINCE (F13) (Mrs S V Babbage) N Babbage 10 10T J Morphy
154	PRYASO (18) (David Halluns) R Stronge 10 TO.
	SWISS COAST (F66) (The Good Fun Recing Club) R Judges 10 10
40	ALIMERJAM (10) (4ts S V Babbage) N Babbage 10 5 A Thornton
re i	CIRCLE OF MAGIC (18) (Jim Weeden) M Pipe 105
_	FIVE LIVE (FS1) (W.J. Reed) S Cole 10.5
	HOPPERETTA (F10) (Phincins Racing) B Paling 105R Greens
	MY HERD (F78) (SII Brown and Pater Papper Partnership) T Miles 10.5
	TRUE VISION (12) (Richard Heddrich) W G M Turner 10 5
•	- 12 declared -

BETTING: 8-13 Circle Of Magic, 6-1 Afficianado, 7-1 my Hero, 10-1 Five Live, 12-1 Paysan nera Glory, 18-1 Swiss Coast, 20-1 Island Prince, Tius Visico, 25-1 Altmerjaro, 33-1 othera 1698; Thome Arena 3 10-5 H Hughes 7-1 (M Pipe) 14 ran

HYPERION 1.00 Boyzontoowa 1.35 Shanavogh 2.05 No Finer Man 2.35 Naughty Future 3.05 Out On

GOING: Good.

Bight-hand, undulating course. Run-in of 250 yets.

Course is on southern outstains of sown, 4m W of junction 42 of M6. Bus service from Carlisle station 2m. ADMISSION: Club C2 (CAPs & under-21s £9); Tattersuffa £5 (CAPs & under-21s £9); Car PARIC: On rais £3 (including occupants); remainder free.

LEADING TRAINESS: Whis M Revealey \$1-97 (\$2%), G Richards 30-124 (242%), J M Jefferson 18-51 (255%), C Pariser 3-101 (125%), G LEADING JOCKEYS: P Cartherry 11-55 (34%), R Guest 9-84 (141%), J Callegisten 8-45 (125%), J Burke 8-47 (125%).

RAVOURITES: 146-349 (415%).

RAVOURITES: 146-349 (415%).

1.00 ROSLEY NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 1f

— 14 declared —
Hikkman weight: 10st. Ture handicap weights: Moonlight Venture Set 13b,
Pacilic Wer Set Sib, Meadlowlock Set 6b.
BETTING: 3-1 Bogoontooms, 5-1 Mister Woodstick, 13-2 Shwix A Wiener, 7-1 Irish Wildcard, 8-1 Clarical Comin, 10-1 Vet Umble, 12-1 Crabbly's Prick, Spider's Delight, Run For The Mill, 14-1 Moonlight Venture,
18-1 Teacher, 28-1 Spring Loaded, 33-1 others.

1.35 HEADS NOOK NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) 25,000 added 2m 4f 110yds

PES-1 CELTIC GANT (11) LLurgo 7 II 4 R Supple
RP-07 AHBEMAYBUS (30) Men L Stobel & 10 2 T Reed
RP-09 AHBEMAYBUS (30) Men L Stobel & 10 2 Perfect
RP-09 BARY JAKE (20) Liboserd Johnson 7 70 2 D Perfect
SENS CADEAUX PREMIERE (16) D Smith 6 10 2 P New
SENS CADEAUX PREMIERE (16) D Smith 6 10 2 P New
SENS CADEAUX PREMIERE (16) Men S Smith 7 10 2 R Guest
AYM P Resumont 7 10 12 Men S Smith 7 10 2 R Guest
44214 BASTER BAVARO (12) P Northeiles 9 10 2 N Sension 7

0550-P ROBARA (11) (0) S Leachetter 7 to 2 ... N Bertley 2163 - SHANAYOGH (257) (CD) G M Moore 6 To 2 ... J Callaghan 7234 TOMY'S FEELINGS (11) Mrs 0 Thorson 9 to 2 ... N Foster 530-53 DAMBYS GORSE (7) (D) J M Jefferson 5 to 71 E Calleghan (5)

BETTING: 11-4 Cable Giera, 3-1 Sanawaya, 9-2 Baby Jaka, 11-2 King Of The Berreit, 8-1 Engineer, 19-1 Danbye Gorse, 14-1 Jay M, 20-1 Tony's Feelings, Master Bavard, 25-1 Cadessit Premiere, 50-1 Others

2.05 EBF 'NH' NOVICE HURDLE (Qualifier) (CLASS E) £3,000 added 2m 4f 110yds

A Promise 3.35 Palace Of Gold

CARLISLE

CIRCLE OF MAGIC appreciated the drop into selling company at Warwick and looked the likely winner at the last, only to be outbettled by Golden Melody. Martin Pipe's runner went down a length and frished Z7 lengths in front of free-running Paysao. Afficionado started taxourite in that Warwick race but was brought down at the fourth having made mistaless at the previous two flights. His hurdling debut third to Grey Pastel here was a good effort, but he gave little encouragement in Corriosser's Leicester race last time (Alixeripan and Digital Option well beaten). First-time binkers may help. Pick of the recruits from the Fiat could be May Hero, who showed ability at two and should be fifter after a return run at Kempton in September, while Five Live and Gumer's Glory have the ability to get into the strake-up if they stay.

Selection: CRCLE OF MAGIC

2	.25	MENDIP PLYWOOD NOVICE CHASE (CLASS C) £7,000 added 2m 3f Penalty Value £5,129
_		
		BAMAPOUR (22) (D) (Mrs Mary T Borie) M Pipe 7 Ti 6 A P McCoy B
	2423-1	MARIUS (17) (D) (Mass Jessica Andrews) J Gifford 7 11 6
	410-1U	MELLCROFT RIVIERA (47) (CD) (John Certer) R Alber 6 11 6
		THURSDAY NIGHT (17) (BF) (B L Birman) P Nichols 8 11 6
		GROSVENOR HEATH (NZ) (F1312) (Tim Colins) A Berrow 9 to 0
	P22/2-	HAPDY WEATHER (421) (Startight Recing) D Gambillo 8 T 0
		JEFFERRES (21) (CO) (BF) (Max 5 Blumberg) J Old 8 11 0
		PURBECK CAVALLER (272) (Mrs E M Curis) R Ainer 8 11 0
		ROVESTAR (21) (G Burrell) C Poprem 8 11 0S Burrough
		SELENT CLINIS (NZ) (14) (G F Edwards) G Edwards 8 11 0
		SOUNDS LIKE FUN (216) (Mrs H Brown) Miss H Knight 6 11 0
		SLIPRENE FLAME (838) (Henry T Cole) H Cole 7 11 0
		VERDE LUNA (18) (bits icebela Zemba) R Smith 5 10 13
'		STEAMERIPD (579) (Patrick Extend) J Mulins 7 10 9
•	HFF02	= 14 declared =
ы	TING: 5	2 Thursday Night, 4-1 Sounds Like Fun, 5-1 Barnapour, 13-2 Jefferles, 7-1 Markes,

1996: Graenback 5 10 13 N Williamson evens law (P Hobbs) 7 ran

Thursday Night, who fell both outings over fences lest season, ran out a very easy winner on his reappearance and return to chasing at Newton Abbot and would have followed up in decisive style from Marius at Fontwell but for falling at the last. Clearly, he will be difficult to beat granted a clear round and he meets Marius 7to better, but three falls from four starts over fences is hardly encouraging. The choice goes to chasing debutant SOURDS LIKE FUN, who made a winning return over hurdles at Hereford lest season. Hennetta Knights runner showed improved form in the second part of last season, bearing wise Mon a short hardlest Sandown in March and lasting an Avent novicer handless for season. Knight's runner showed improved form in the second part of last season, beating Wise King a short head at Sandown in March and Isnding an Ascot novices' handleap by six lengths from Jove King the following month. Beamspour will be a denger to at having scored the first author with feason is the neuron of Newton Abbet Med Refaul West in March 1986. on his first outring over remost in the country at investor house. He over beat in that novices handlesp by eight lengths from Reflex Hammer and, while this is tougher, he will be suited by the longer trip. Jefferles ran a sound more over hundles first time back at Towcester to be third to Spendid (whiner again since) and he should win races over fences. Afficient Riviera made a whining debut over fences at Eveter in September and was in front when telling at halfway at Bangor afterwards.

Setection: SOURIDS LIKE FUN

2	.55	BEECH NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS C) £5,000 added 2m 1f Penalty Value £3,680
1	3/2122	LONBARDIC (USA) (29) (Boruspire) J Oki 6 # 6
2		TWO TO TANGO (14) (CD) (F J Mile & Mr W Mile) N Twiston Davies 4 11 1 C Llewellyn
3	0	ATLANTIC MOST (23) (The Wardour Partnership) B.R. Milman 4 11 0
4	82-	DANTEAN (440) (G Michen & D Cile) R O'Sulven 5 to 0
5	U -	EDITORNAL (200) (Mrs Philippa Cooper) C Brooks 5 ti 8
6	54/	HAYA YA KEFAAH (F69) (Alan G Craddock) N Bebbage 5 11 0
7		SARASOTA STORM (F73) (Mrs G A Roberts) R Frost 5 to 0
8		SERENDIPITY (FR) (F38) (M J Horton) M Pipe 4 tt ()
9		VILLAGE KING (23) (SF) (Capt E.J Edwards-Heathcole) P Hobbs 4 11 0 Farrant
10		FRESH FRUIT DAILY (F68) (BF) (Keyn Hudson) A Keleway 5 10 8
11	00004/	KRBY OPPORTUNITY (1304) (K C Write) G Ham 9 10 9 S Burrough
12	1-0530	STRONG CHOICE (13) (Mrs Sandra McCertra) J Mulins 5 10 9
13	P00/6-	VEXFORD MODEL (497) (V G Greenway) V Greenway 7 to 9
_		= 13 declared =

1996: Yet Agein 4 11 0 D Brickswater 16-1 (Gav Kelleway) 13 ren

TEELIN BAY (242) C Parier 5 11 0 ... D Parier JOWODDY (18) Ms D Thomson 4 10 9 ... B Lee (3) PERFECT YERW (46) J. C Thomson 4 10 9 ... M Foster SIDE BY SIDE (443) C Thomson 4 10 9 ... M Foster

ASHLEYBANK INVESTMENTS H'CAP

CHASE (CLASS C) £6,500 added 3m

F/4PD FRONT LINE (285) J.J. O'Nell 10 11 0. ... L. Cooper (7) 101-71 COVERDALE LANE (11) (CD) Mrs S Smith 10 10 11. R Guest 4P15/ MAJIC RAIN (544) (CD) B Blean 2 10 9. C McComanck (7) 2P333 WESTWELL BOY (211) (D) (BF) P Beaumont 11 10 9 ...

SP20-2 MRUSERTY FUTURE (14) (D) JJONell 8 to 4. R. McGrith (S) 11/19- KALAJO (158) (D) L Lungo 7 10 2 Supple 1F0P-2 PERSONE PRIDE (17) (C) (D) M Hammond to to 1 Mr C Bonner (S) V

PETTING: 5-2 Coverdete Lana, 4-1 Son Of Irfs, 11-2 Manghty Future, 7-1 Northern Squire, 10-1 Westwell Boy, 12-1 Kalajo, Botter Times Aboad, Pennine Pride, 14-1 Front Line, 20-1 Majic Rain

3.05 CALDBECK HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,750 added 2m 1f

-5 declared -Minimum weight, 10st, True handicap weight: Apolic's Daughaer Set 4th. BETTING: 11-8 Oct On A Promise, 3-1 Desamtie, 4-1 Yelsthath, 11-2 Apol-

3.35 ASPATRIA AMATEUR RIDER H'CAP HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,600 added

57229 DURG OF PERITH (199) JH Johnson 5 '2 Quae M Brachuma (7) 441-2 PALACE OF GOLD (12) L Lungo 7 11 12 Mr B Gibeon (7) 548-4 CATHERINE'S CHOICE (22) M Harmond 4 11 11 826/1 TOPOTHENORTHRACING (16) (D) P Besumont 7 11 10

2 PD-250 FAMIE AND FAMIASY (15) A Whitens 8 10.0.... Mr E Byrne (7)

- 12 deciared Minimum weight: 10st. True handcap weight: Fame And Fantasy 9st 8th.
BETTING: 7-4 More Champagne, 4-1 Palace Of Gold, 5-1 Topotherordiscoing, 7-1 Catherine's Choice, 8-1 Reach The Clooks, 10-1 Bold Classic,
Date Of Parth, 14-1 Copportunet, Lostris, 16-1 Shoraurs Way, 20-1 Peop
O'Day, 25-1 Fame And Fantasy

2m 4f 110vds

— 15 declared —

UTTOXETER

12.45 Lolita 1.15 Glamanglitz 1.45 Evezio Rufo 2.15 Strath Royal 2.45 Hoh Express 3.15 Listen Timmy 3.45 Saint Ciel

GOING: Chase course - Good, Good to Soft in places. Hurdle course - Good, Good to Firm in places.

Course - Good, Good to Firm in places.

Left-hand course, Run-in of 170yds.

Course is SE of town near B607. Utiposter station (Derby-Crewe line) adjoins course, ADMISSION: Club £15 (DAPs £12); Tetterests £10 (DAPs £7); Course \$4, CAR PARIX: Free.

LEADING TRAINERS: M Pipe 39-80 (30%), K Bailey 25-13 (20%), D Nicholson 20-91 (22%), N Yelston-Davies 17-98 (17.7%).

LEADING JOCKEYS: R Durwoody 36-132 (23.7%), A liseguire 23-108 (23.9%), W Marston 12-17 (10.3%), R Johnson 10-89 (11.2%).

FANOURITES: 244-648 (37.7%).

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Rocky's Profiles (145)

12.45 ALLIED DOMEGQ 'BUDGET BEATERS' HURDLE (CLASS E) 23,000 added 3YO 2m

. 2	12	KINGDOM SMPEROR (14) (D) W Clay 11 5R Johnson
	0	CANADIAN FANTASY (14) Mis V Werd 10 12 P Thornton (3)
	-	HEAD GARDENER (F34) N Litimoden 10 12
	5	BAFFALA (12) W G M Turner 10 12 W McFerlen
	ň	LETTYFAK (FR) (18) Williams 10 12
	_	MYOSOTIS (FS) P Heat 10 12E Humbered (3
		NO MORE PRESSURE (F19) Mrs J Remaden 10 12. P Carbary
		NORTHERN ACCORD (P26) Mas J Remedien 12 12 . R Comité
		MODITION OF STREET AND ADDRESS OF IN THE PARTY CHARGE
		RAMBO TANGO (F51) B Cambridge 10 12Garry Lyon
l		RICHDALE M Williamson 10 12
	4	VIRTUOSO (26) (BF) C Mann 10 12
		LOLIDA (FR) (F65) M Pipe 107C Maud
	P	MADAM LUCY (Pas) J Spearing 10 7 D J Karvanagh (5
	8	MADGES PET (94) W Clay 107
	Ē	MOONSPELL (47) M Wildneson 10 7
	•	MUSTANG SCALLY (10) J Mackie 10 7T Ele
	•	- 16 declared -
	- 4	- 10 COCCOSCU
i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i	-	Lolita, 71-4 Leitytak, 7-2 Victuoso, 5-1 Kingdom Eruper

PETER J. DOUGLAS ENGINEERING LTD SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE

1.15 ED WEETMAN ROAD HAULAGE H'CAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2m 4f

(CLASS G) £2,375 added 2m

FORM GUIDE
FRONTIER FLIGHT appreciated the drop into segregary at Warwick when according by 17 lengths from Edward Seymour. Sam Rockett has won three times at Newton. Abbot this season and again has the beating of fourth-placed Game Difference from his latest success there. He was a close second to Secret Gift at Windsor last time (Sleep-tibe unestated early on) but has been raised a further 2D. Deshing Dollar, winner of a bumper and maiden hundle in Ireland, could manage only fourth to Warnicha won his first start in this country at Huntingdon but should do better. Selection: FRONTIER FLIGHT

2.15 BARRY D. TRENTHAM CHALLENGE BOWL HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) £6,500 added 2m 7f

- 5 cacarres -BETTING: 5-2 Strath Royal, 11-4 Rectory Garden, 3-1 Pasido, 9-2 Fools Ermod, 7-1 General Pango 2.45 JOHN POINTON & SONS LTD NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) \$3,000 added 2m

		HOUDTE (OF 199 C) 199 STREET ST
1	13	FARIFADET V (FR) (43) (D) M Pipe 4 11 5
2		MARALINGA (19) (CD) Lady Homes 5 11 5 R Durwood
3	4	CHEMILATA (411) T Dornelly 4 10 2
4 .	805	DESEL DAN (12) J Jenins 4 10 12
5	325-18	DOUBLE STAR (19) J L Herris 8 to 12
6		HON EXPRESS (F19) Mrs J Plantsden 5 10 12 A Garrita
7	2	LORD RICHTELD (NZ) (19) S Brodighaw 6 TO 12 S Wynn
8		MUSTAT GRUMBLE (F334) Miss S Willon 7 to 12 A Macanin
9		ROBERTO RIVA (F426) O Sherwood 4 to 12P Curben
10	0	SAGEBRUSH ROLLER (11) J.J. Chief 9 10 12 M.A. Fizzgação
#	٠ ٥	TAJAR (USA) (F12) T Keckly 5 to 12 J Goldstein (7
12	00-	TUDOR FALCON (254) P Bradley 4 10 12 R Johnson
13	-	NEEDWOOD MUTKIN (F145) B Morgan 4 107 L Herve
		- 13 decimed -
BET	TNG: 64	Maralings, 52 Pertadet V. 11-2 Lord Richfield, 8-1 Hoh Ex

press, 10-1 Double Star, Roberto Rive, 14-1 Segebrush Roller, 20-1 other

3.15 PLANET ICE NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) 25,000 added 2m 4-1 LISTEN TIME(Y (20) (CD) S Brodishaw 8 ti 5 __ S Wyrrau PF5-53 ASTRAL IMAASION (8) (CD) T Well 6 to 12 _Geny Lyons B 53430 DESERT CALM (200) D McCain B to 12 _____ V Stateny 0345-2 TEJANO GOLD (20) (CD) P Bradley 7 to 12 ____ R Johanson

- 4 declared -BETTING: 1-3 Listen Timony, 3-1 Tejano Gold, 12-1 Astral Invasion, 28-1

3.45 ALLIED DOMECQ 'BUDGET BEATERS' HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,750 added 2m

SARE VISION (15) (D) JUSSIN 7 (D TO.

Michael Brennen (3)

SARE VISION (15) (D) (SP) N Handerson 6 To 4.

M A Filogenic

195 DEGC (27) (CD) M Paren 4 10 2 R Johnson 05844 NESDWOOD POPPY (F174) (C) B Morgan 9 10 0.L Hervey -8 declared Minimum weight; Tos. True hencican weight: Neetwood Poppy Sci 76.
BETTING: 3-1 Wayteres Way, 100-30 Saint Ciel, 7-2 Taksamemo, 11-2
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Hendry pursues perfection after going to pot

Stephen Hendry began his quarter-final in the Liverpool Victoria UK . Championship against Alan McManus last night with his impregnability seemingly dented. Is the greatest snooker player of all time fading or drawing breath? Guy Hodgson met him at Preston.

Who is this? A snooker player whose cueing action is being criticised by has manager and openly admits he was not working hard enough last season. Ronnie O'Sullivan? The world champion, Ken Doherty, even?

The answer is so surprising you think you have misheard. Stephen Hendry, the man who regards perfection as a slipshod day at the office and who has spent more hours potting balls than anyone, is the subject of the

above questioning. It is as if him look younger than his 28 would even think to question his Shakespeare rang up his pub- years and quietly scotched suglisher complaining of writer's gestions of a decline. Nothing too

Yet Hendry has not looked the same man since losing the world title to Doherty last May. He went out on his first appearance in the Regal Masters and the Grand Prix and even lost 5-0 in an invitation event in form is remaining and might just China to the man whose record motivates him more than anything, Steve Davis.

From the outside you could be forgiven for thinking the iciest temperament in the sport was thawing. At one time players were beaten before they cued up a ball, battered merely by his reputation. Now there idation because players know Hendry is going to find it soon and they do not want to be in

The man himself appears wholly relaxed. He arrived at Preston's Guild Hall dressed in an Eskimo-like coat that made

earnest to give the impression of. protesting too much but a sober analysis of his current position. Yes, he had been desperately disappointed not to the world title last spring; yes, he was not playing as well as he can; but yes, the arrive in time for him to win the UK Championship.

"I'm cueing as well as I've ever done in practice," he said. "People are used to seeing me knock hundreds in from all over the place and it's not happened yet. It will though. I'm not a good loser at all

People might say 'Oh is hope. Or should that be trep. Hendry is not the same player, but if I was gone there's no way I could come back from 8-5 down to beat Anthony Hamilion 9-8 here in Preston. I made two dearances at that point and you just don't do things like

"Just as, ordinarily, no one

commitment. Hendry has a fixation with his place in the game. per as well as in public opinion and failing to get the seventh world title which would have put Reardon rankles. It normally takes two days for him to get over a defeat, losing to Doherty at the Crucible took two weeks. One reason he lost, he says, was because he eased up a bit.

whereby he is in the snooker until say 10.30, having a longer club by 10am and only leaves at break, and stopping at 4.45. It He wants to be the best on pa- 5pm with one hour's break in sounds trivial but it's like somewon five titles that he felt he him beyond Steve Davis and Ray could relax, maybe such a suc- doing that three or four times cessful season left him tired, maybe he had got to a stage. where spooker suddenly is just balls rather than an obsession, but his standards slipped.

"It was little things," he needed.

showing was Martin Dziewiał-

towski. The Scot was already 6-0

behind before winning his first

frame and Stevens rubbed it in

by clearing up with 66 to win the

Stevens, the world No 53,

eighth frame on the black.

Stevens in commanding form

Matthew Stevens produced a 20-year-old Welshman's brillia sparkling display yesterday to virtually book his passage into the semi-finals of the UK. Championship in Preston.

Stevens secured a 7-1 advantage and barring disaster when the match resumes this afternoon will reach the last four of a ranking event for the sec-

On the receiving end of the balls I feel like scoring heavily."

between Maybe it was because one going to their job and not I usually do and it's just that, he reached eight finals and doing the hours. Clocking in late, going home early. If you're a week, it creates a stackness in your mind. Possibly it's due to isn't there. Maybe losing the world championship what I

You can probably put Ian Doyle's comments into the same category. Hendry's manager since he was a boy said he had noticed a "dramatic" change in his cueing action in the last six months. "He's lost that flowing action," he said. "That's why he hasn't done so well his season and also why he lost the world championship."

Hendry smiled as Doyle's said: "Twe put in a lot of hard theory was put to him. "Ian says work this season, now it's paying these things to give me a kick off. Whenever I'm in among the up the backside," he comtered, "but to be honest I don't

His is a self-imposed regime conceded. "I wasn't starting pay attention to it. He will try anything if he thinks it'll moti-

> "I haven't played as well as nothing to do with my cueing action. I'm not a robot, people expect a certain standard from me and anything less is not acceptable. I've not been knockage, possibly the motivation, ing in break after break after break but I've no doubts about myself. It'll come.

I have dedicated my life to the sport. You have to. Two players have done that, Steve Davis and myself, and we've have won all the tournaments for 20 years. Other players haven't, it's as simple as that. You can have all the talent in the world but if you mess about, don't put the work in, you won't quite make the top. It's all about how much ambition

you've got." And how much is left in the Hendry fuel tank? "Lots," he said. "I'm only 28, there's a lot of good snooker inside me. I



Hendry: 'I would be very disappointed if I'm not vorid champion this year

want to the world No 1 throughout the Nineties. I've already overtaken Steve in terms of being No1 the longest but to get to the year 2,000 would be fan-

Von ker

Croati

Sheft

Most of all, though, his ambition is the seventh world title. "I'll only be satisfied with my career if I get that. I've never been one to say I expect this I'll do that, I leave that to Nascem Hamed." Quietly, he added: "I would be very, very disappointed if I'm not world champion this year."

RUGBY LEAGUE

Broncos look to Higgins and Ryan

The London Broncos have moved to plug their gaps for next season by signing the Australian pair, Darren Higgins and Chris Ryan.

The two played for the now defunct Perth Reds last season, Higgins in the back row of the pack and Ryan as centre, goalkicker and sometimes captain.

Ryan is seen as a replacement for Greg Barwick, one of 11 first-team squad players who will not be with London next

He and Higgins join the New Zealand Test prop, Grant Young, who was signed earlier this week. The club's chairman, Richard Branson, has set aside £1.5m to contract new players, with an experienced scrum-half the likely priority, following the loss of Shaun Edwards to Bradford and Josh

White to Salford. St Helens, who have deferred consideration of Anthony Sullivan's transfer request til they can meet him. been talking to the former Wigan and Leeds centre, Kevin Iro, who will be without a club if the Hunter Mariners fold, as expected, when the two competitions in Australia merge - a long-awaited event that is an-

ticipated over the next few days. Warrington have signed the New Zealand Test forward, Brendon Tuuta, as a free agent from Warrington.

The Rugby Football League is to clamp down on trainers. physiotherapitss and water-carriers bringing instructions on to the field. Following a meeting with Super League coaches, the controller of referees, Geoff Berry, has warned that clubs will be punished if they continue to abuse the system of giving on-

field treatment. "The ball is very much in their court. If they [the clubs] abuse the system we will come down heavily on them," Geoff Berry, the RFL referees coordinator, said. "The clampdown will initially last for four weeks but, if we see trainers standing behind the defensive line organising play, clubs can expect strong action."

The Bradford Bulls have won the top award from the government's Sportsmatch scheme for encouraging grass-roots sport. The Bulls' successful programme of school holiday activities was judged the best among the 70 sports into which Sportsmatch has directed funds. – Dove Hadfield My's shot

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TODAY'S

NUMBER

The free flights that British Airways will be providing for the members of Britain's Olympic and Paralympic teams at the Millennium Games in Sydney. One of the BA aircraft that will carry competitors Down Under will bear the slogan "Teaming Up for Britain".

RUGBY UNION

Llewellyn's mission to prove point

Gareth Liewellyn will turn the clock back eight years when he relaunches his Welsh career against New Zealand on Saturday. Liewellyn, the Hariequins lock, faces an All Blacks side showing just one change from the team who beat England last Saturday, with the centre Walter Little being recalled in place of the injured Alaama Ieremia.

Sean Fitzpatrick, moving towards full fitness, also returns to the Test side on the bench. Zinzan Brooke, who was injured against England, has recovered, while Jonah Lomu keeps his place on the wing.

It all adds up to the familiar power-packed All Blacks, but Liewellyn knows he is under far more pressure than during his Test debut on 4 November, 1989 when the New Zealanders ran out 34-9 victors in Cardiff.

Dropped by Kevin Bowring, the national coach, following Wales' unconvincing 28-23 triumph over the United States in San Francisco four months ago, Liewellyn has won a reprieve.

An injury to Moseley's Steve Moore, possibly the most exciting Welsh second-row prospect since Liewellyn, and a committed display as the Wales A captain against New Zealand earlier this month, guaranteed the former Neath captain a 60th cap recall. "Kevin and I had a pretty high-volume discussion after I was dropped, so you could say I am determined to prove a point," Llewellyn said.

Lieweliyn, still only 28 despite his wealth of international experience, will need to reproduce those high standards because Bowring has made it clear what he expects when Wales take the field before a sell-out Wembley crowd.

Bowring said: "The loss of Steve Moore is a blow because he has impressed me with his work-rate, but Gareth has responded very well to challenges that have presented themselves. I have decided to give him a chance against New Zealand, an occasion when I know he will contribute.

Llewellyn has been a virtual Wales ever-present throughout the 1990s, leading his country against South Africa, Italy and France among others. and until this summer, had featured prominently in Bowring's

With the prospect of a Five Nations' Championship campaign ahead - Liewellyn's ninth if selected - followed by Wales South Africa summer tour, he has everything to play for this weekend. "I am lot fitter than I watch one of Europe's leading was last season, my work-rate is nations when Spain confront much higher and I feel ready to England at The Pavilions on face the All Blacks' challenge," Llewellyn said. "New Zealand have so many great players, but it is their collective ability to play effectively as a team that makes England, under their coach, Vic them such difficult opponents. : Ambler, beat Norway 108-46 at They don't rely on individuals all 15 do their jobs."

all 15 do their jobs."

NEW ZEALAND & Wates, Wambley, Saturday): C Cullen (Contral Vikings); J Wason (Otago), F Bunca (North Harbour), W Little (North Harbour), J Loneu (Counts); A Naishten (Canterbury, James (North Harbour), J Marchaff (Canterbury, capt); C Dowd (Auckdand), N Hewiti (Southland), O Brown (Auckdand), J Ones (North Harbour), R Beroke (Auckland), T Randell (Otago), Z Brocke (Auckland), J Kronfield (Otago), Replacements; S McLeod (Malekand), J Preston (Malfinglon), A Blowers (Auckdand), C Riachelmann (Auckland), M Allen (Morewellu), S Fitzpatrick (Auckland).



Reading the game: Graham Thorpe relaxes before getting down to batting practice with the England squad for Sharjah in the nets at Old Trafford yesterday Photograph: Peter Jay

Hollioake preaches merits of honest approach

Next week, England fly to Sharjah to play in a one-day tournament involving India, Pakistan and the West Indies. For the first time since 1993, they will be without their captain, Michael Atherton. Derek Pringle was at Old Trafford to listen to his replacement, Adam Hollioake, and the England coach, David Lloyd, reveal their plan of campaign.

While Michael Atherton spent yesterday lunching with the Queen at Buckingham Palace, Adam Hollioake. England's one-day captain for the quadrangular tournament in Sharjah, was giving his first press conference as England captain. While it is unlikely that Atherton spent much time reassuring the Queen that her team was in good bands, Hollioake was insisting that his appointment should not label him solely as a one-day player.

"I've got more to offer than that," said the Surrey captain, as he and David Lloyd finished off morning net practice by fielding questions from the media. After putting the assembled throng straight on this point, he set out don't have priorities. I just want to win every game of cricket I play in."

Unlike Atherton, the man he is to replace for Sharjah, Hollioake is an open soul, and what you see is exactly what you get. "He will be different to Michael," David Lloyd said, with a crooked smirk on his face. "As a be a demanding challenge for the lads," young captain he's got a lot of responsibility, especially as he bats and bowls as well. But while Athers opens the innings and sets the tone of the game, Adam will be more unpredictable and work on his instincts.

Lloyd, who is off to Rawalpindi today to watch the second Test between Pakistan and the West Indies, feels the

his personal manifesto, declaring: "I tournament in Sharjah has come at the and, according to Hollioake, who right time. But although there has been talk of Sharjah being an early step on the road to the 1999 World Cup, there is consternation that, with almost two years of solid cricket coming up,

England could be a spent force. "We're conscious of that and it will Lloyd reckons. "We have an obvious goal with the World Cup, but Test series are an ongoing challenge. The main problem is how to retain our best players in peak condition when the domestic season starts. So far the counties have played ball but we'll keep looking at op-

tions to keep players fresh." At present everyone is well rested

GOLF

is under no illusions but, while he says no-one has a right to have their name set down in concrete, he is relishing the challenge facing him and his squad over the next three weeks. "I can't wait. I've told the guys what

I expect from them and what they can expect from me. I have a policy of being totally honest and open and I expect the same from them. In any case we've got such an exciting squad it is not a question of thinking who do we play, but who do we leave out? For a captain, that's a nice problem to have."

spent a few weeks in Australia seeing

his parents, preparation has been of

the highest order. However, Hollioake

BASKETBALL

England's far Pavilions

Plymouth's fiercely partisan Plymouth City Council, who are baskethall supporters are relishing their rare chance to Saturday night.

The European Champiouship semi-final is the first to be staged in Plymouth since the Mayflower Centre in 1973.

Ambier, a former lecturer at Exeter University, is still the only coach to have taken England to the European Championship finals, when they reached the last 12 for the tournament staged in the then

Czechoslovakia in 1981. The Pavilions, funded by

promoting Saturday's game, is also home for the National League club Plymouth Raiders.

The Raiders drew a capacity 1,500 spectators for their 99-77 National Cup defeat by London Towers, which gave them a taste of the gulf that would have to be bridged for the Budweiser League.

Keith Mollard, the Raiders' secretary, said: "We certainly have a good enough venue. but going up would involve a huge jump in administration and finance.

"People ask if we'll be happy staying in the National League. Well, when you're winning, you're happy."

Bristow accused of misconduct

Eric Bristow faces an investigation into allegations that he caused havoc at a tournament in Belgium - with even his manager admitting the fivetimes world champion can be "a

loose cannon". Bristow, awarded an MBE for his achievements in the sport, faces an investigation by darts' governing body into reports that he was involved in a fight during the Primus Masters event last week.

Dick Allix, the event director of the Professional Darts Council and also Bristow's manager, confirmed that an incident had taken place at the tournament in Brussels. "We have heard Eric's version, we will lis-Richard Taylor ten to what the other British following evening.

players have to say and then see what the Belgian version is and if they make an official complaint," Allix said. "We will judge the matter accordingly."

touring in Asia: "Eric is not a saint by any means but that's half his charm. If he was bland and ed States Tour school. uninteresting, darts would be much the poorer. He can be a bit of a loose cannon, yet I would never condone any trouble." Eddy Knapen, the Primus

Masters promoter, claimed ars among the 43 competitors Bristow was involved in a fight who booked their cards for next with another competitor on year. Saturday and then began "needling" the world No 9, 288 or better would have been Shayne Burgess, and a friend, who fell through a window the

Gary Nicklaus, son of Jack, was one of three United States players to make the European Tour following the conclusion of the qualifying school at the Allix said of Bristow, who is Guadalmina course in southern Spain yesterday. He recently

> However, Scottish veteran Ross Drummond failed to chalk up a 21st successive European Tour invitation to join 19 other Great Britain and Ireland play-

Nicklaus Inr joins Tour

A 72-hole total of level par enough after four rain-soaked rounds over seven days on the Costa del Sol, but the four-times

Scottish professional champion could not make the three late birdies he needed to qualify and now faces an immediate future on the European Challenge Tour.

Irish Walker Cup player Richard Coughlan, from Birr, failed to qualify from the Unitalso earned a card with a oneunder-par 287, but his teammates, David Park and Steven Young, failed with totals of 296 and 301 respectively.

Sweden, with six graduates, were the second most successful nation at the school. The Netherlands, along with the US and Australia, have three representatives gaining cards, including the No 1 ranked player, Chris Van der Velde.

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31/SPORT

Ferguson guards against complacency factor

The mathematics have got down to the primary school stage. If Manchester United beat Kosice at Old Trafford tonight they will be through to the quarterfinals of the European Cup. If they lose, they will suffer all kinds of agonies before they meet juventus in a fortnight's time. Guy Hodgson reports.

In theory their task is as simple come and been conquered at With the only 100 per cent as the sums. Manchester United defeated tonight's opponents 3-0 in Kosice and the Slovakian champions, the first club from their country to make the Champions' League, have not got a point since. They come as potential cannon fodder, but then so did Fenerbahce last season and they ended an unbeaten home record in Europe lasting 40 years.

That night United were lured into a sluggish tempo by the Turks and were caught on the break. Great clubs have

Old Trafford; Fenerbahce were nowhere near as good, yet had stolen a monument of United pride. No match summed up the English champions' European gaucheness better.

Twelve months on and the picture has changed. Alex Ferspoke yesterday of English footboth international and club levalways feared our spirit and our tactical nous and skill, too." and that will be the incentive.

record in the Champions' League, United have every right to that respect. United's main problem

tonight could be a lack of it for their opponents turning into complacency, although Ferguson dismissed the suggestion. "I guson, the United manager, don't expect that to be a problem at all," he said. "The playball's growing reputation at ers have been very focused in all the Champions' League games el. "Continental coaches have and I think they will be against Kosice. They know if they win work-rate, now they respect they're through to the next stage

"Fenerbahce was a good lesson for the players because we won't even attempt to play at that tempo. We'll have to work out their tactics and keep possession on occasions but the really important thing is

We'll be our usual selves." There is also the improvement in Kosice to deter assumptions. Their last match, against Juventus, was lost only 3-2 and, as Ferguson suggested, the ability to score twice in Turin should not be disparaged by anybody. In Kosice, they caused

we'll play at our own quick pace.

ing half hour while Jozef Kozlej suggested he will trouble good

Denis Irwin, who altered only goal, is still suffering from the knee ligament problem in-Paul Bosvelt, although yesterday's progress report suggested and Roy Keane are United's only casualties, but Ferguson reveal his team.

United problems for the open- Christmas?" he asked before letting out two snippets. Ronny Johnsen will definitely play probably be at centre-back while Ole Gunnar Solskjaer will the tone of that match with the start as substitute and, if all goes to plan, will play the second half.

"We will have to be aware of flicted on him by Feyenoord's the counter-attack," Ferguson said. "Against Fenerbahce we hammered at them all night and he will be fit by Christmas. He then lost our discipline with the goal. If we show the same discipline we showed against was in character in refusing to Feyenoord, particularly in the second half, we should be all

Pele tops our poll for the Hall of Fame



Nobody ever doubted who would be the first player through the door of the loternational Football Hall of Fame. Pele won the World Cup with Brazil in 1958, 1962 and 1970, was awarded 92 caps and scored 77 international goals. He hit 1,283 goals at the top level, 12 of them in World Cup finals alone.

More than 500,000 peonle voted in our campaign to help set up football's first ever International Hall of Fame and Pele is the man who finished top of the poll as the greatest footballer of all time.

Second position went to George Best, who thrilled fans during the 1960s with Matt Busby's European Cup-winning Manchester United team.

Third place went to Best's Old Trafford teammate, Bobby Charlton. World Cup winner in 1966 and one of the game's enduring statesmen. He was never booked and his 49 England goals remains the modern benchmark

Fourth was the Dutch master, Johan Cruyff. To this day, schoolchildren are taught the "Cruyff Turn" in honour of a hugely talented player who went on to coach at the highest level.

In fifth place is Bobby Moore, England's 1966 World Cup captain, who died at the age of 51 in 1993. Moore's accomplished style marked him out as a central defender years ahead of his time.

The five men nominated by our 500,000 votes make a fine foundation for the International Football Hall of Fame, which will be built in Manchester.

Best said: "I am abbeen chosen by the public for a place in the International Football Hall of Fame. Considering the company I'm keeping in the top five - and that I never actually played in a World Cup - it's a bit of a compliment."

A further 20 entrants for the Hall of Fame will be selected by a panel of international journalists. They will be announced at a press conference today.

HOW YOU YOTED

1 Pele 3 Bobby Charlton Future Hall of Fame

Hall of Fame

2 George Best 4 Johan Cruvif 5 Bobby Moore

1 Diego Maradone 2 Alan Shearer 3 Ronaldo 4 George Weah

5 David Backham

Atkinson keen to bring Croatian pair to Sheffield

manager, Ron Atkinson, is chasing the Croatian international striker Igor Cvitanovic and the midfielder Silvio Maric.

Atkinson flew to Zagreb to watch Cvitanovic and Maric in Uefa Cup action for Croatia Zagreb against Atletico Madrid on Tuesday, after being impressed by them against Newcastle earter this season.

Cvitanovic scored in both the

i in

The Whip

home and away legs against the Magpies. He should be available at about £2m when his club is knocked out of Europe. However, Maric is only on the fringe of the Croatian side which might cast doubts about whether he could gain a work permit.

Roy Hodgson's bid to bring the Swedish striker Pascal Simpson to Blackburn Rovers has been delayed by an injury. The AlK Stockholm target man is due at Ewood Park for talks this he will not be fit to play for about a month after surgery on an ankle problem.

The Leeds United manager, orge Graham, will watch the Sigurd Rushfeldt in his club's Champions' League game at home to Real Madrid to. The 24vear-old had a spell with Birm- he comes to England." ingham City two seasons ago.

The Birmingham manager, agent at the end of his contract with Vasteras, where he scored 14 goals last season. Andersen was due to play for Birmingham's reserves last night.

months to turn the First Division Port Vale. dub into promotion challengers.

Arsenal's Dennis Bergkamp is

Fifa's Player of the Year

World Player Gala at Disney-

won the award last year while

with Barcelona, is also among

the front-runners, along with his

fellow Brazilian Roberto Car-

Madrid) and the Frenchman Zi-

los, Spain's Raul (both Real

The Brazil and Internazi-

onale forward Ronaldo, who tember.

land Paris on 12 January.

Sheffield Wednesday's new City's board of directors yesterday issued a statement supporting him in a move to dismiss speculation that they are on the verge of sacking the former

England striker. Birmingham have taken only 22 points from 19 League matches this season, winning just five games, but their chairman, David Gold, said: "It is only fair to give the manager time to do the job he was brought in to do. Of course we are concerned with recent results, but we believe that the team is playing well and that it is only a matter of time before the wins come."

The Chelsea defender Frank Sinclair has opted to fight for a place in Jamaica's World Cup side rather than aim for a chance with England. The Wimbledon forward Robbie Earle, the Derby striker Deon Burton and the Portsmouth week about a £1.5m move, but players Paul Hall and Fitzroy Simpson are already part of the Jamaican set-up.

The 25-year-old Sinclair said: "Tve made up my mind I want to play for Jamaica. Rob-Rosenborg Trondheim striker bie has convinced me that the set-up with Jamaica is excellent and now I have to convince the coach I am worth a place when

The Sheffield United midfielder Dane Whitehouse could Trevor Francis, has set up a be out of action for a year af-Thomas Andersen, who is a free jury. The 27-year-old, who has spent his entire career with the 1988, faces surgery to repair anterior cruciate and lateral ligament damage sustained during Francis has been given 18 Saturday's goalless draw with



Blades, whom he joined in Shirt shrift: Aston Villa's Stan Collymore walks bare-chested off the pitch following Tuesday's defeat by Steaua Bucharest

Yorke puts case for value of Romanian strike

Yorke, who is seldom seen and Athletic Bilbao. without a smile, is aiming to wipe the grins off the faces of The Dutch striker Berg-Steaua Bucharest players by shooting his side into the cuarone of five leading candidates kamp has been in sensational form for the Gunners this sea-

ter-finals of the Uefa Cup. award, to be announced at the son, having already netted 12 Yorke threw Villa a lifeline when their third round, first leg goals, helping him to win the tie in Romania looked to be Carling Player of the Month drifting out of their grasp with awards for August and Sepa priceless second-half goal in

Tuesday's 2-1 defeat. The top three finishers will Now the Trinidad and Toshare the stage with the first bago international is backing players to be inducted into Fifa's International Football the job at Villa Park in two Hall of Champions - Bobby Charlton, Franz Beckenbauer, weeks' time knowing a 1-0 win give us even half a chance for will prove sufficient - as in the the return leg. Michel Platini and Pele.

The Aston Villa striker Dwight previous ties against Bordeaux

Their players seemed so the game." Yorke said. "Perhaps it was something to do with the fact they went 2-0 up!

"But I don't know whether they realised just what that goal I scored means. Perhaps they will when they get to Villa Park. It was certainly vital to

"When we sat down in the dressing-room at half-time Brian Little's side to complete everyone was aware that we desperately needed to get a goal to

"But the mood wasn't down- and tested 5-3-2 system, then Bucharest," he said. "I saw Vilbeat. We knew we hadn't played that badly, weren't far off getcheerful and smiling throughout ting it right, and just needed to striker again failed to deliver the tighten up - which is what we goods in Bucharest, and it was you are clever enough, and we did in the second half.

> way back to basically the position from which we had started the game, in the sense that losing 2-1 is the same as drawing 0-0 in terms of us needing Park, but was still annoyed they a 1-0 win to go through.

> "Now we are looking to finish them off - and we have to make sure that we go out and failed in that task, but we have do a good professional job at Villa Park."

If Little returns to his tried play at Villa Park than in ter-finals."

Stan Collymore will struggle to make it in the side. The £7m We managed to claw our needlessly in the build-up to Steaua's first goal.

The Steaua coach, Mihai Stoichita, insisted his side would find it easier to score at Villa had conceded a goal.

"I was looking for us not to the advantage and I am con-

Hockey

The England captain Mandy Daviss has been surprisingly omitted from the 18-strong squad for the tour to Australia in January. The England manager, Maggie Souyawe, has recalled Lucilla Wright, Joanne Mould, Purday Miller and Flona Greenham, and has given Kerry Moore her first chance to shine at international senior level. However, Davies is still included in the 24-strong squad which will take part in the World Cup in Utrecht and the Commonwealth Games in Kuala

Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur. The seven-match Australian tour begins on 16 January and in-cludes three matches against the Aus-

cludes tirree malches against the Australian youth team, two regional matches and two Test matches against Australia.

ENGLAND WOMEN'S SQUAD (four of Australia, 16 Jenuary): K Bowden, P Millier, J Mould and C Vess (Leiceste), K Brown, J Smith and L Copeland (Slough), M Clewlow and J Empson (Carrierbury), C Reid and T Cullen (Fightown), F Greenhalm, K Moore and L Wright (Citon), J Bimson (Loughborough Suzients), H Rose (Link of Messachusstie), H Rose (Link of Messachusstie), T Miller (Cilion) and J Shamilin (Sutton Colditela), The following at players are included in the World Cup Tealing Squad: S Blanks (Leizester), M Davies (Sutton Colditels), D Marston-Smith (Citron), L Nesschill, D Marston-Smith (Citron), L Nesschill, D Marston-Smith (Citron), L Nesschill, Children M Nicholis (Slough) and

he who conceded possession have very good forwards. "Their central defenders are all very tall but not very quick players, and we have players with pace who in one-to-one sit-

la play against Everton and

they do leave a lot of space at

home, which you can exploit if

uations will be difficult to stop." Stoichita added: "I am sure they will be aware that in every game we have scored away concede a goal at home and we from home. We've managed two in each of the first two rounds in Europe and I am confident vinced we will find it easier to we can go through to the quar-

nedine Zidane (Juventus). SPORTING DIGEST

Bergkamp on Fifa shortlist

Monty's shot wins award

For the second year running the Scotsman Colin Montgomerie has won golf's European Tour Canon Shot of the Year award.

The shot was the threegood Montgomerie played off e final tee of the final game in this year's Ryder Cup at Valderrama.

To beat the Americans, Montgomerie had to halve with Scott Hoch. They were all square with one to play and while Hoch drove into trouble. Europe's No 1 found the mid-

dle of the fairway. From there he was able to hit a nine-iron on to the green and moments later he gave captain Seve Ballesteros the victory he so badly wanted.

"It's the best tee shot I've ever struck in my life," Montgomerie said. I always use a three-wood at the hole. The idea is to hit it high over the trees and land it soft. I managed that and also got the length I was looking for. The ball traved 280 yards."

FOOTBALL RESULTS

Tuesday

UEFA CUP Third round first leg: Steema Buchareat 2 Aston Ville 1; Ajex 4 VIL Bochum 2: Croatia Zagreb 1 Attetico Madrid 1; Rapid Vierra 0 Lazlo 2; Kerlanhe 0 Spertak Moscow 0; Shrashourg 2 Internazionale 0; Tueste Enchede 0 Auserre 1; Sporting Brage 0 Schalle 04 0.

FA CHALLENGE CUP First-round replays: Basingstoke won 5-4 on panellies; Barnley 0 Rotherham 3: Cambridge Utd 3 Plymouth 2 (set); Cardiff 3 Slough 2 (set); Colchester von 4-2 on panellies; Barnley 0 Rotherham 3: Cambridge Utd 3 Plymouth 2 (set); Cardiff 3 Slough 2 (set); Colchester von 4-2 on panellies; Enriey 3 Monocambe 3 (set, Emby won 3-3 on panellies); Galrisborough Thirity 2 Lincoin City 3; Gänghern 0 Bristol Rovers 2; Grinsby 4 Shrawsoury 0; Leyton Orient 0 Hendon 1; Mansfield 0 Oldham 1; Northampton 2 Exerter 1, Mansfield 0 Oldham 1; Northampton 2 Exerter 1, Mansfield 0 Oldham 1; Northampton 2 Exerter 1, Basting Challenge Cup second round: Stalybridge 3 Gassisies 4 (set); Petrort 1 Northampton 2. FA CARLSBERG VASE Second round: Armitorpe Waltere 0 Denaby 0 (set); Henne Bay 2 Langey Sports 0, Second round: 2 Amold 2 Boldmers 5 Michaels 1; Histon 1 Rocester 0; Folkestone Invited 5 Harriet 2 Rother 1 Rocester 0; Folkestone Invited 5 Harriet 2 Rother 1 Rother 2 Rother 1 Rother 1 Rother 2 Rother 1 Rother 1 Rother 2 Rother 1 Rother 2 Rother 1 Rother 2 Rother 3 Rother 3

1 Weekisione 2. UNIBOND LEAGUE Premier Division: Ac-UnusiOND LEARUE Premier Division: Ac-crington Starley 1 Hyde 1; Chodey 2 Wins-tord Urd 0. First Division: Mattock 4 Witton Abion 1; Tariford 2 Droylation 0. Uniffile First Division Cup tree-round: Selper 5 Con-gleton 2. First round risplay; Whitey Bay 1 Whitby 2. President's Cup: Altrincham 0

Leigh RMI 1; Berrow 2 Marine 5; Blyth Spar-tens 3 Bishop Auckland 2; Raddiffe Borough o Runcom 0.

DR MARTENS LEAGUE Pres Helesowen Town 4 Saisbury 1

ford 1
JEWSON EASTERN LEAGUE Premier Di-vision: Great Yarmouth 3 Watton 3; Low-estoft 0 Surbury Wanderers 1; Newmarker 1 Stowmsket 2; Sudbury Town 3 Gorieston 1; Warboys 2 Diss 2. 1; Warboys 2 DSS 2.
NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE First
Division: Atherton Colleries 2 Salford 3;
Charlderton 3 Nantwich 0; Glossop North
End 3 Malne Road 0; Hastingden 3
Rossendale 1; Holder Old Boys 0 Citheroe
0; Vaundall GM 1 Prescot Cables 0. NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE Premier Division: Liversedge 1 North Fer-riby 3: Thackey 1 Brigg 1 properties and property 1 East 1 SCREWROLD DRECT LEAGUE Premier Division: Catre 3 Backwet 4. UNLLET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First Division: Horsham YMCA 2 Selsey 3; Pagham 1 Whitehawk 1; Shoreham 2 Little-hampton 1.

UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE CUP Second round: Newport Pannel 2 BRICKSTONE 3; WOOTION 8 THREPSSON 2.

ARNOTT INSULANCE: NORTHERN
LEAGUE First Division: Stockdon 2 Morpeth
4. League Cup: Ashington 1 Durham 0;
Bedington Tenniers 1 Consett 2; Duston Federation Brawery 2 Weathington 0; Easington
CWM 3 Explation CW 0; South Shields 5 Esh
Winnier 0.

WINNING O.
GILBERT LEAGUE OF WALES CUP SECOND ROUND: Cernaes Ynys Mon 1 TNS OND HOUND'S CHARGE PREMIER THE LEAGUE Premier Di-ILBRISHTHERS LEAGUE Premier Di-Vision: Ards 1 Crusaders 1; Gentoran 1 Omigh 0; Limited 0 Portadown 0. AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION First Division: Charlton 2 | Josefich 2; Crystal Palace 4 Queen's Park Rangers 2; West Ham 2 Charles 1.

2 Chaisez 1. PONTINS LEAGUE First Division: Coven-PONTING LEASE-try 2 Oldham 1. THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP Second round: Sheffield Utd 3 Transners Rovers 3: Norwich City of Crystel Palace 0; Bradford City 2 Scarborough 1.

Basketball MBA: Charlotte 90 Detroit 85, Memil 103 LA Lakers 86, San Antonio 102 Dalles 91, Seat-tie 91 Chicago 90, New Jersey 101 Golden State 87, Secremento 97 Denver 93.

"Sugar" Shane Mosley knocked out Manuel Gomez in the 11th round to stay undefeated and retain the international Boxing Federation lightweight champlonship in El Paso, Texas. Mosley, of Pomona, California floored the Mexican in the 11th round.

Cricket
Navjot Stdru continued his fine form as India laid the basis for a large score on a rain-affected opening day of the second Test against Sri Lanta in Nagour. Rein and bad light and the breakdown of leay drying equipment allowed just 41 overs during the day, in which India elected to best and made 135 for 1. But Stdru and Rahul Dravid put together an unbeaten stand of 118 for the second wicket after the opener Nayan Mongia had perished early on Stdhu, who made 131 in the drawn first Test at Mohall ast week, hit an unbeaten 64, including 10 bounderies and a six over long-on off Muttiah Mua six over long-on off Muttiah Mu-ralitheran, while Dravid was on 47 at the close. SECOND TEST (Nagpur): First day; India

wan tass
INDIA - First tanings
N R Mongie c Murelitiaren
N S Sidhe not out
R S Dravid not out
Extras (nbs, bz)
Tatal (no na, 41 overs)
Fell of wickels: 1-15

Fills of Wickels: 1-15 To best: "S R Tenchalicar, S C Genguly, M Azhenydriän, A Kumble, J Střinath, R K Cheuthan, A Kuruvilla, N M Kuskami. Bowfing: Was 11-2-21-0; Pushpekumera 6-0-34-1; Jayaniha Silva 6-2-29-0; Muraliha-ran 9-0-37-0; Panatunga 1-0-6-0; Jayasunya 4-2-2-0. 4-2-2-U SRI LANKA: *A Renebunga, ST Jayasuriya. M S Abpeattu, R S Mahanarne, P A De Silva, H P Tilakaratne, S K L de Silva, C J U

Benficals new coach Graeme Sourcess has asked the 55-year-old Eusablo, the star of the Benfica and Portugal at-tacks in the 1960s, to take charge of coaching the clubs strikers. Milan's Dutch International detender Winston Bogarde has signed for Barcelona for about £33m, reuniting him with his former coach at Ajax, Louis van Gaal. He did not play a full match for Milan, who signed him on a "Bosman" free transfer from Ajax lest summer.

Golf

PGA EUROPEAN TOUR QUALEFYING SCHOOL (Sen Roque and Guadalusina, GB or iri sinkase statisci): 280 C Van der Velde (Nesth) 72 68 71 68; F Henge (Swe) 68 75 68; 71 F-J Derksen (Nesth) 76 68 67 71, P Golding 71 68 70 71 282 M Campbell MZ) 69 72 67 74, 283 D Thomston 71 70 74 68, O Blasson (Swe) 73 68 73 69, G Owen 70 76 770, A Sobz (Aus) 72 67 70 74, 284 S Bernnert 75 68 70 71, J Snopn (Ind) 67 74 71 72, A Sendywell 70 70 71 73, 295 J Handoworth 73 72 70 70, A Caupp 73 71 71 70, M Lafeber (Nesth) 73 667 70, F Howley 71 72 71 71, H Nystrom (Swe) 71 75 68 73, J Remesy (Fr) 72 72 68 73, A Bead 69 71 70 75, 286 S Alter (Nz) 75 68 70, F Howley 71 72 71 71, H Nystrom (Swe) 71 75 68 73, J Ramesy (Fr) 73 75 68, M Moina (Arg) 69 77 69 71, M Davids 69 70 75 72, D Higgins 71 72 70 73, J Rask (Swe) 7268 71, 75, P Linhart (Spa) 73 67 71 75, 287 J Rystrom (Swe) 73 75 68 74, M Booth 78 73 75 68 70, R Cough-

Dominic Matta, the Manchester Storm forward, is facing at least a two-game ban after being ejected from lest night's Superleague defeat against Nottingham Parthers at the Nynex Arena, Metals was thrown out shortly after scoring its sides second goal for one of the worst offences in the sport. of the worst offences in the sport kitcking an opponent. SUPERLEAGUE: Menchester Storm 3 Not-tingham Penthers 5

Pools news

LTTLEWOODS DIVIDENDS (for metches played 16 and 19 November): Troble chance: 24pts £3,4539, 22 £345, 22 £500, 21 £180. Helt-time result: 22pts £1578,5 Metches played Seturdey, November 22. Troble chance; 24pts £5,50775, 23 £749, 22 £400, 21 £175. Helt-time result: 23 pts £5,8080. Four draws: £155: Nine some: £840,85: Five aways: £3480. VEDMORES, DRUGENDS: Five aways: £3480. VERNONS DIVEDENDS: Treble Chance: 26pts 5842, 23 02265, 22 6375. Super Shots: 265. Premier 10: £2780

EBS, Premier 10: 52780
ZEITERS DIVIDENDS (for matches pinyed Saturday, 22 November): Trable chance: 26pts 5/2700, 23 57:5, 22 5035. Four aways 5/20. Egbt homes 5/8500. Four draws 5/0. All Draws trable chance: 24pts 5/2/50, 23 51/5, Five 5/8/50. BRITTERS DIVIDENDS: Trable chance (fivee dividends only): 34pts 5/7/50, 23 51/50, 22 51/50, 70 or draws 5/7/55. Five aways 5/2/7/5. Eight homes 5/4/90.

BRITISH LAND BRITISH OPEN (Queen's Club, London): Men'n singles finst: C Bray (GB) bt Fahey (Aus) 65 6-0 6-4 Doubles finst: J Snow (GB) and J Male (GB) b M Gooding (GB) and R Fahey (Aus) 6-4 6-3 6-5.

Rugby Union

Dick Best, the former England coach, has reached a private settlement with Harlequins over his claim for untain dismissal. Best has been out of work since his controversial departure. by Quins in May, His case was due to be heard at an industrial tribunal in Croydon yesterday, but the hearing was cancelled following notification that

a securitary was miniment. Basi, re-placed by Jack Rowell after winning 13 of his 17 matches as England's coach, said yesterday: "I am not al-lowed to comment on the settlement but I can confirm I am still out of work and looking for work."

and looking for work."

Chester Williams, one of South Africats 1995 World Cup squad, has joined the Italian Second Division team, Casale, for three months. Williams, 27, make his debut against Parmaon on Sunday. The left-winger has been plagued by knee injuries since he helped South Africa to victory in the World Cup. Shooting

Malaysia, the hosts, won two gold madals yesterday to move to the top of the standings on the stoth day of the Commonwealth Federation Championship. The Malaysians had five golds among a total of seven medals. England and india each had four golds, but England have an overal lead in medals with 18 while India have five. Snooker

MTCO-Nea N'ERPOOL VICTORIA UK CHAMPIONSHIP Prestoni: Fourth round: R O'Sullivan (Eng) bt 3 Willianson (Eng) 9-4; M Dziewialkowski (Soo) at D Reynolds (Eng) 9-7; Squash GATAR INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP (Dobs) Guarter-finale: Jensher Khen bt G Ryding (Can) 5-14 5-11 5-11, J Power (Can) bt A Shabara (Egy) 15-11 5-7 5-7 5-7 Power (Sco) bt J Bonetat (Fr) 15-8 15-10 8-5 5-6; R Eyles (Aus) bt C Walker (Eng) 9-15 5-7 17-14 5-12 Sent-Small Power bt Janaher Khan 5-14 15-6 15-2; Nicol bt Eyles 17-18 5-7 5-70.

Andre Agassi needed only 48 minutes to defeat his American competriot Robert Abendroth 6-2, 6-1 yesterday in the opening round of the Health South-USTA Men's Challenger in Burbank.
MEN'S CHALLENGER (Burbank, Calift: Singles, 2nd round: J Salzanstein (US) bt M Potchey (GB) 6-2 6-2, A Agass (US) bt R Abendroth (US) 6-2 6-1.

It can hardly be described as part of Clive Woodward's youth policy, but John Bentley's return to the England side this weekend adds an indefinable something to the occasion.

Chris Hewett assesses the likely impact of some true Yorkshire grit.

John Bentley, James Small. James Small, John Bentley. Ever since the two fiery threequarters first went eyeball to eyeball in Cape Town six months ago, they have been bracketed together like Burke and Hare: the salt of the earth Englishman and the South African wide boy, each as brash and boisterous as the other. They will meet again at Twickenham on Saturday and even though they have

the odds are on an early renewal

Both men professed a profound lack of interest vesterday in harping on about their previous collision at Newlands, when Small accused Bentley of eye-gouging and Bentley accused Small of rank bad sportsmanship in refusing to shake his hand at the end of an explosive third match in what became a triumphant tour for the Lions. Their reasoning was sound enough; after all, Bentley will have to handle the prolific Pieter Rossouw while Small must content himself with the sharper, snappier threat posed by the diminutive David Rees.

Yet the two arch antagonists possess that unique something - call it star quality if you like - that consistently places them on centre stage, directly under

been picked on opposite wings, other much, if at all, and 75,000 Twickenham spectators will be hoping against hope that they "get it on" again on Saturday.

Bentley, now 31 but yet to play for his country at Twickers, wins his fourth cap on merit. Rees, a left wing by instinct and breeding even though he plays all his club rugby for Sale on the right, shifts across field to make way for him, with the unfortuout altogether. Clive Woodward, the England coach, believes Bentley's competitive spirit, his bottomless reservoir of attitude with a capital A, will harden the collective mindset against a world chempion outfit rejuvenated by a convincing brace of Test victo: ies in France.

"It hasn't really sunk in." said Bentley yesterday, 24 hours after giving his considerable all for the English Rugby Partnership the brightest spotlight in the XV against the All Blacks in house. They do not like each Bristol on Tuesday night. 'I re-

ENGLAND TEAM V SOUTH AFRICA

M Perry (Bath); J Bentley (Newcastle), P de Glanville (Bath) or N Greenstock (Wasps), W Greenwood (Leicestar), D Rees (Sale); M Catt (Beth), M Dewson (Northampton); J Leonard (Harlequins), R Cockerill, D Garforth (both Leicester), G Archer (Newcastle), D Grewcock (Saracens), L Dalleglio (Wasps, capt), R Hill (Saracens), N Back (Leicester).

Replacements: P Grayson (Northampton), A Healey (Leicester) or K Bracken (Saracens), G Rowntree (Leicester), M Regan (Bath), C Sheasby (Wasps). Melch to be played at Twickenham on Saturday

nate Adedayo Adebayo missing ally enjoyed that game against New Zealand, which went far better for me than the previous match for Emerging England in Huddersfield. But it was not until 7.30 yesterday morning that I was told to pack my boots and get myself up to London, If you'd asked me before Tuesday's match, or even immediately after it, if I thought I was in with a chance of a Test place against

the Springboks, I'd have said no." Small was equally upbeat. This is the best South African side I've been involved with," he

asserted. "The coach has an open-door policy and the senior players are treated as adults. I still enjoy the bad boy image - after all, it's good for business - and the fires still burn in me, but I've calmed down a little now."

If this weekend's desperately difficult match represents the "final piece in the jigsaw" for Bentley, it represents wholly different things for the other newcomers. For Matthew Dawson, who replaces the injured Kyran Bracken at scrum-half,

case of dejà vu. Both have spent up as anyone. In fact, I'm very time at the head of the pecking happy with the whole side. The order, only to find themselves re-

cens who replaces the banned doubt whatsoever that this is a Martin Johnson, it is a whole new game we can win." ballgame. The cap he won in Argenting during the summer will always have a place on his mantelpiece, but he knows it was earned in the absence of Johnson, Simon Shaw and any mumber of injured competitors. This latest achievement is of another dimension - an opportunity to lock horns with a genuine world power on the biggest stage of all.

"We'd have liked Johnno to have played, of course," Woodward said yesterday. "He's a world-class forward. But I have no problems with Danny coming in; he has a massive future in front of him and while be and Neil Back, in on form at knows he is not first choice at

open-side flanker, it is a clear the moment, he'll be as pumped South Africans have a new jected in the flicker of an eyelid. coach and a sense of freshness For Danny Grewcock, the about them - but we have conathletic lock forward from Sara-fidence too and we are in no

> Along with his fellow selectors, Woodward chewed more fat over his back row selection than on any other area of his line-up. Although Lawrence Dallaglio, the captain, stays on the blind-side flank and Richard Hill moves from the open side to No 8, those positions are purely for the programme editors. The two will mix and match, depending on where a particular scrummage happens to be situated and which scrumhalf is inserting the ball. In all probability, Dallaglio will attempt to capitalise on his star-



Saturday by filling the position

at attacking set-pieces.
"Tim Rodber would have come under consideration the his match against the Zealanders on Tuesday, but he finished the game wifti scient concussion and will not be main able for three weeks," Woodward said. With Tony Diprose also and available with shoulder trouble - Bracken was forced to with draw with a similar injury - the selectors may just have stumbled on tling second-half contribution at a trio of exciting potential. Llewellyn's return, page 30 No 8 against the All Blacks last

TENNIS

Football may lure Ivanisevic away from **Davis Cup**

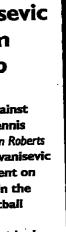
It ought to go against the grain for a tennis player but, as John Roberts reports, Goran Ivanisevic is apparently intent on putting the ball in the net – on the football pitch.

No matter that he is the mainstay of Croatia's Davis Cup challenge, it seems he would rather be playing for Hajduk Split come next his nation's honour on the tennis court against Finland.

During the lean years, before the advent of Greg Rusedski and Tim Henman, the Lawn Tennis Association never thought to offer a racket to Paul Gascoigne, who was a talented junior player. The oversight

for his home team, Hajduk Split, rather than compete for Croatia in their Davis Cup tie against Finland next February.

What seems a tall story, even for the 6ft 4in Ivanisevic, is given credibility by the football club's coach, Luka Bonacic. He has "seriously decided to pick Goran Ivanisevic for the team" to play Croatia Zagreb on 14 February.



February than upholding

might have delayed Britain's A relaxed Pete Sampras plays with his racket during a training session in Gothenburg in preparation for the Davis Cup final between the United promotion in the Davis Cup. Such logic belongs to the States and Sweden. Following today's draw, the event will begin with the opening singles match tomorrow realm of Goran Ivanisevic, who is threatening to play football

An element of player pow-We are still counting on Goran er would appear to be at work. to play against Finland, but it's Ivanisevic, the runner-up at his decision. Wimbledon in 1992 and 1994,

has vowed not to play for his country again as long as Suad "For me," Rizvanbegovic

Rizvanbegovic remains president of the Croatian Tennis

said, "the story must be a joke. Zagreb goal cannot be ruled roe played soccer as a youngster

The 26-year-old Ivanisevic, who regularly delivers 1,000 aces per year, calls up the word "unbelievable" to describe just about everything, good, bad or indifferent, and a few pots at the

out. After all, Ivanisevic has always been dangerous on grass who could forget the volley he netted against Andre Agassi?

Tennis players are not exactly strangers to football grounds. Henman plays in goal for the LTA team, Fred Perry used to train with Arsenal, John McEn-

and Boris Becker used to look longingly at Bayern Munich.

A word of caution, however. A few years ago, Ivanisevic had to undergo surgery for the first time in his life after damaging a cartilage in his right knee during a kickabout in Croatia. His only consolation

was that the operation enabled him to watch Hajduk Split play Ajax in the quarter-finals of the

Photograph: Christof Stache/AP

European Champions' Cup. Perhaps Ivanisevic needs another challenge, but playing top-flight football would surely be beyond him. At the very least it could overstrain his brittle temperament.

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ALFRED DUNHILL

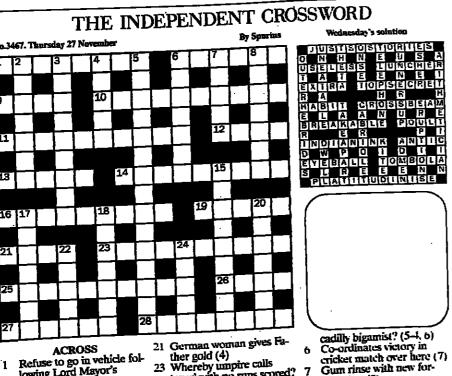
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Federation.

1 Refuse to go in vehicle fol-lowing Lord Mayor's show? (8)

Flow interrupted by artist's vehement harangue (6)
Glass brought back from Jena, perhaps (4) 10 Man's crisis, inordinate

elf-absorption? (10) 11 Very talented people pro-ducing Oxford Street publicity handouts (4,6)

12 Steer straight? (4)
13 Edges backtowards king giving a silly grin (5) 14 Scholars of the highest

16 Drinks advertised by misspelled signs around front of local? (3, 6) 19 Bridge players with highest

cards manoeuvre with

stealth (5)

cast off (3-6)

over' with no runs scored? mulation (5) Lose hope and submerge

25 Repairman takes an apprentice without intelligence (10)
26 Day of Roman's eclipse, as 15 Greek dramatist con-

cludes? (4) Savage force that is used to replace organisation's leader (6)

18 People will be accommo-dated in new semi, very big 28 Half-day tariff is steep (8) DOWN Signs of hesitation about article on Italy identifying

20 Part of sofa, in check modangerous element (7)

teems of clothing the sister

American lady's holding up court officer (5) 24 Having 150 in to dine Cancel publication when shows a certain distentation advance is withdrawn (5)
5 Confused situation of Pic-

ultimately in swirling rapids

(7) Banker appearing fashion-able in relatively elaborate

attire? (9) Priest putting on airs, per-

haps, according to man from Tel Asix (7)

France's World Cup concerns reach yellow fever pitch

The pitch that is being prepared for the opening match at the World Cup next year is looking distinctly off colour but, as John Lichfield reports from Paris, experts cannot agree why.

Imagine a World Cup final played on a pitch the colour of a mown hayfield. There is growing concern over the condition of the turf - laid at a record cost of £400,000 - in the splendid stadium constructed near Paris for the World Cup next June and July.

After a recent inspection of the Stade de France. Michel Platini, the former French international and co-president of the World Cup organising committee, complained that the turf looked rather vellow. The stadium engineer admitted only that the pitch appeared "dirty". It had been treated with sand, he said, and too much had heen applied. He would have the grass brushed.

Independent experts tell the French press that there may be in other words, much closer to a far more serious problem. See-the poisoned subsoil than was retions of the pitch, laid in Sep- ally necessary. A pressure group tember, have already been called Robin des Bois (Robin out the 1994 world champions.

replaced, making it look more Hood) points out a substantial like a chesshoard than a sporting showpiece.

One school of thought blames the impressive and futuristic roof of the stadium, which has an elliptical cross-section. Some experts say the roof is too big. Even though it has been fitted with vast skylights, it may be blocking out too much light and preventing a reasonable circulation of air. As a result, they believe, the grass is not drying or photosynthesising properly and will be vulnerable to disease and incursions of fungi. (An especially nasty attack of mushrooms has already been

Other experts say that the problem may be below the pitch. not above it, and even more serious. The stadium at Saint-Denis, just north of Paris, was built, after a great deal of political manocurring, on the site of an old gasworks. Before building work started, the subsoil was cleansed of chemical pollutants and an underground filter installed to absorb noxious substances.

point out that the chosen design sank the pitch 30 feet below the natural ground level of the site,

rise in the water table would make the underground protection system useless. The group also claims that the degree and variety of pollution of the site including traces of cyanide, tar, benzol and phenol - is far

greater than first admitted. The stadium management continues to deny that there is a problem. The turf was temporarily damaged, they say, by a combination of excessive sanding and mowing. All yellowness will have disappeared in two to three weeks, they say, in plenty of time for the inaugural match. a friendly between France and Spain on 28 January.

According to Le Monde, a substitute is standing by. The company which laid the grass is cultivating another 3,000 square metres of identical turf, just in case the pitch does need to be replaced. The grass has been designed to be especially hardwearing, capable of sustaining 16 hours of play a week.

A grim thought remains. But environmental experts Brazil, with their canary yellow shirts, will play in the stadium in the first match of the 1998 World Cup on 10 June. If the pitch remains yellow, tens of millions of TV viewers around the world could be struggling to pick

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